



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes October 9, 2021

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Jerry Freeman, Steve Gartland, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Melanie Most, Jane Mount, Harold Stieber, Jerry Thiel, Rosemary Wiczorek, Terry Wiggins;

Excused: Deborah Addy, Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, George Covalle, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, Steve Lawrence, Kathy O'Connor, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, Brack Ford, Kurt Marchwinski, George Rose, Linda Schoonover.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:01 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The September 2021 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the September 2021 meeting minutes, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the September 2021 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for September 30, 2021 was \$42,212.23, with total cash on hand being \$117,018.11. The investment began with \$60,000 and has since grown to \$74,805.88 in just two years. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at HaroldS@hiscfa.org. The business account at TCF is closing and will be transferred over to Huntington Bank beginning Tuesday October 12, 2021. The board will need to reappoint check-signers and finish paperwork to this effect.

David Martin made the motion to approve the September 2021 treasurer's reports, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Margaret Marchwinski reported that we've received an additional membership renewal in the mail since the last meeting, and two additional membership requests at the BBQ/Bonfire event. Margaret indicated that she would like to revisit the Welcome Committee for new Island property owners. Supervisor Bryson directed Margaret to speak with the Assessor to learn more.

Communications: There were no official communications received this month.

Browne's Field: Craig Baloga indicated that the field is in decent shape. The pump may need a float level adjustment/tuning, but overall things are going well. The memorial bricks project is underway to ensure that this area won't get flooded during heavy rains, but there is a committee in place to support this activity. This project is being coordinated for consideration with the walking path that will eventually be placed on the field. Craig will be setting up a meeting on this topic within the next week or two. David Martin asked Melanie Most to put on social media a request to support the donation of benches to be placed along the walking path. The request will be for



funds to support this project, and David will coordinate the purchase of the benches so they match the ones already at the field. If you are interested in supporting this endeavor, please reach out to David Martin.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple prepared a statement for her report out on Government Affairs, which Melanie Most read to the group. Melanie reported that the water levels for Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron are on the decline. At the beginning of October, Lake Superior is 1.6 inches below the long-term average water level 1918-1920 and is 12.2 inches below the level a year ago. Lake Michigan-Huron is 15.4 inches above average, 16.5 inches below the level from last year and 24 inches below the record set in 1986. Waters typically decline in October. You can visit this site to read more about this topic: <https://www.ijc.org/en/labc/update-lake-superior-outflows-and-expected-conditions-october-2021>.

Covid Booster Shots (Pfizer) are available at Kroger for those who qualify, between 10am & 6pm with no appointment. CVS & Rite Aid also have shots, but you must schedule an appointment with them.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson reported that the Harsen's Island Nature Park / Kayak Launch property is currently awaiting a DEQ/EGLE permit. There was some activity recently which involved an inspection of the site over the course of several hours, so the township is hopeful things are progressing with that project. The Township has been in talks with the county about redoing Golf Course Road, and the material is already on the Island in order to get the work done. There were also some side discussions about road assessments and grading/maintenance. There were nine full dumpsters of trash that were removed from the Island during the fall Island Cleanup event that took place last weekend. That compares to about half of what was removed during the spring event. The next Clay Township meeting will take place at the Lions Hall on Harsen's Island on Monday, October 18th, 2021. The state budget reflects that the HITA is allotted \$250,000 to conduct research on alternative means of transportation to and from Harsen's Island. The HITA will have three years to spend this money. The governor hasn't signed it yet, but it is anticipated that it will be signed without delay.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of September, Chief Rose attended the St. Clair Flats Association meeting and the St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association meeting. The fire department participated in two parades: the Peter Henkel Boat Parade and the Harsen's Island Lions Club Parade. The Fire Fighters Association had their pancake breakfast, and it turned out very well.

Chief Rose indicated that the Clay Township Fire Department (CTFD) finally received the last of their equipment that they have been waiting for the new engines which has been mounted on both trucks. They have just a few personnel that need to finish-up on the training on the new trucks.

Training on the new Airboat will be starting next month: towing, launching vessel, and driving it and safely operating the vessel will be stressed. The CTFD has scheduled RTF (Rescue Task Force) training for next month. This is put on by Bill Adams from Tri-Hospital EMS.

The CTFD was very busy with the bad storms we had last month, with several downed trees and downed power lines across the roads and in yards, along with widespread power outages.

Next month, Fire Boat #2 will be taken out of the water. Fire Boat #1 will stay in until December.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Browne's Field Restrooms / Fundraiser:* A quotation was received for just the foundation/footing for this project at a cost of \$29,000. The rest of the work (plumbing, walls, roof, fixtures, etc.) was not included in this quotation. A follow-up will be done with this contractor to get a quotation for the rest of the project. The Harsen's Island Militia (H.I.M.) held a charity softball game recently which raised \$615 to go towards the permanent restrooms fund.
- *Fall BBQ Financial Results & Takeaways:* This event sold out once again, and took in \$5,636 while expenses were at a minimum (\$1,389.82). This resulted in a net of around \$4,300. Island resident and HISCFA member Brad Spencer approached the HISCFA about catering this year's event. The HISCFA paid for the food and Brad offered to prepare the food at no cost to the Association (his time/labor was a donation). There was nothing but positive comments about the food this year. The HISCFA's cost for this event was less than half of the cost of the caterer from the last event of this type. The band (coordinated with the Music in the Park series through Clay Township) was great and positive feedback was received all around. Brad was provided a generous tip, and the HISCFA will also follow up with an official thank-you of some kind.
- *Pantry in the Park:* In the May 2021 HISCFA Meeting Minutes, there was a motion to approve the installation of a "Pantry in the Park" at Browne's Field at a team-decided location based on the master plan for the field. There was discussion about where would be the best location to place this feature, and it was determined that adjacent to or near the barn, facing the fence line, would be best. This would be accessible for easy donations since it is near the parking area, and the area has sufficient-enough lighting to see in the dark, but not overly bright to still be discreet.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Clay Days 2022:* Clay Township will be turning 200 years old next year, and there will be an event celebrating this milestone, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 8, 2022. The HISCFA would like to get Island property owners excited about this event to help out by providing the Township with historical information about the Island: newspaper clippings, photos, stories, articles, etc. Large storyboards will be available to display at future events, and they will grow in number as time goes on. This has the potential to morph into a yearly celebration. There is planned to be a pickerel dinner, and of course a beer tent with live music. There will also be two local tribes to come and do dancing. The focus of this event is to celebrate the rich history of the area and the noteworthy people that originated from this area or made it famous. People like Gar Wood, Chris Smith, Joe Bedore, Frank Cummings, Fred Flowerday, Tom D'Eath, and even musician Lee Murdock who sings about historically accurate stories from the area. Miss America X will be on display, there may possibly be a Civil War reenactment, and also possibly a group to demonstrate the French-Indian encampments. Out of boldness comes boldness, so the goal is to celebrate that boldness.
- *ABC Portable Toilets:* There was discussion about relocating a portable toilet from Browne's Field to the mainland sooner than the planned November 1st date because of the longer wait times at the ferry due to lack of ferry captains. David Martin said he will request that when the toilets are cleaned next week, the extra unit will be removed from Browne's Field and put on the mainland side near the ferry landing. The handicapped unit will remain at Browne's Field.



Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Steve Gartland mentioned that the Harsen's Island Historical Society is having a pie sale today from 10am-1pm.
- ✓ Melanie Most mentioned that there will be an outdoor Halloween event at the Lions Hall parking lot on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 4-6pm. The excess snacks that were left over from the HISCFA BBQ event were donated to the Lions for the Halloween event.

Next meeting will be Saturday, November 13, 2021 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; David Martin seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (September 2021)



Clay Township Fire & EMS

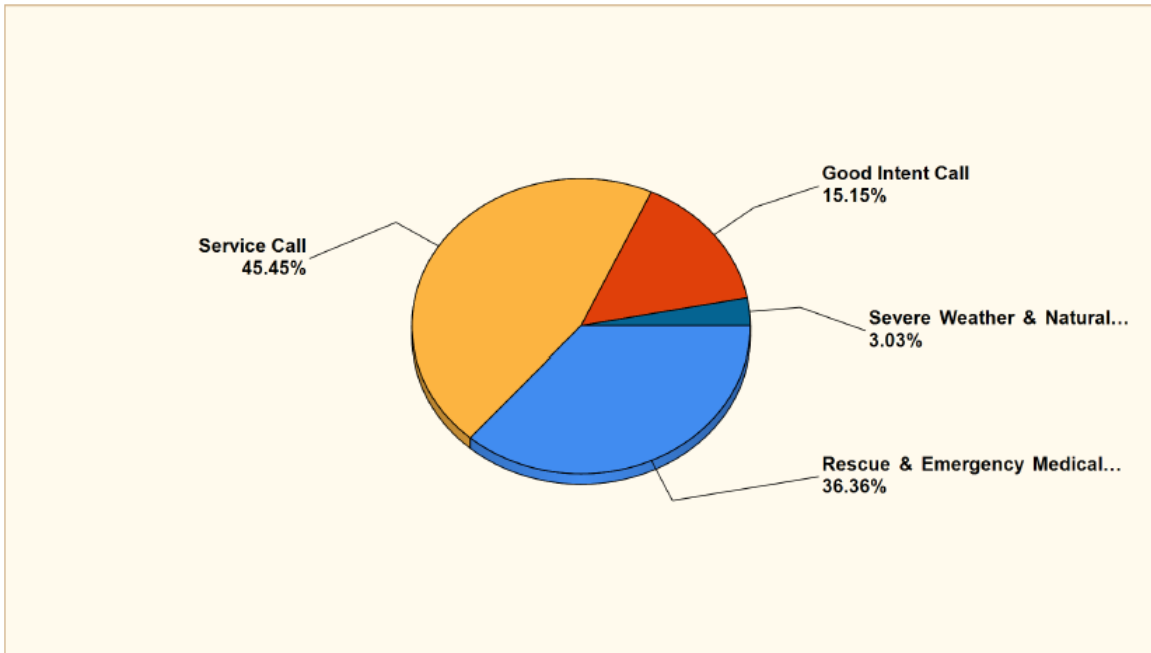
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 09/01/2021 | End Date: 09/30/2021



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	12	36.36%
Service Call	15	45.45%
Good Intent Call	5	15.15%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	3.03%
TOTAL	33	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2	6.06%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	8	24.24%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	3.03%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1	3.03%
500 - Service Call, other	2	6.06%
550 - Public service assistance, other	2	6.06%
554 - Assist invalid	2	6.06%
561 - Unauthorized burning	3	9.09%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	6	18.18%
600 - Good intent call, other	1	3.03%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	3.03%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	3	9.09%
813 - Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	1	3.03%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	33	100%