



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes April 4, 2022

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden;

Excused: Jerry Freeman, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Rosemary Wieczorek, Lois Whipple, Terry Wiggins;

Guests and Members Present: Mike Balan, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Roger Favrow, Sandy Favrow, Karen Guld, Kathy Harrison, Kurt Marchwinski, Doreen Miller, Spencer Phinney, Russ Reinhardt, George Rose, Ken Roth, Karen Samosiuk, Dennis Schmalzel, Joanne Shirkey, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow, Sue Tornow.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:31 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The March 2022 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes, Steve Lawrence seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber was not available to present the Treasurer's Report today. Craig Baloga mentioned that there's an upcoming meeting with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County to discuss the account and outlook for the future. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Secretary Report: Margaret Marchwinski reported that it's a very busy time for membership renewals. Many members are utilizing the newly-redesigned website to renew this year which is a great time-saver for the Association. In addition, the new design of the website looks really great and is easy to navigate. The Delta News is also underway for collecting articles, advertising, and announcements for publications.

Communications: There were no communications received this month.

Browne's Field: Susan Bryson presented a sketch for the memorial brick project / flagpole area that is being relocated to Browne's Field. The sketch can be found in the Appendix of this document. Susan also wondered whether the septic system is going to interfere with the flagpole project. Dennis Szymanski helped review the drawings and determined that there was no interference. Susan is working on getting donations to assist with this project as much as possible. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please reach out to Susan Bryson or contact a Director. Susan would like to get started on this project as soon as the ground is ready. Volunteers can help towards the end of the project to help plan the placement of bricks in the path. Dennis Szymanski reported that the extra portable toilet will be removed from the mainland and brought back over to Browne's Field since there are now two ferries running. Dennis will work towards making sure the parking lot gets adequately graded this year since that didn't occur last year. David Martin indicated that he has three quotations for different types of benches



and the benches will be fulfilled as soon as it is possible to get the committee together. It is preferred to have the same types of benches and not many different kinds of benches at Browne's Field.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple was not present to report today, but Craig Baloga indicated that the checks for auto insurance in Michigan (\$400 per registered vehicle from October 2021) have started to trickle in for everyone.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson reported that the water main project engineering is being finished up and a \$1M grant request has been submitted to Gary Peters' office. The total cost of the project is estimated to cost around \$5M but Supervisor Bryson believes he can complete the project without any debt to the Township at all. The roads are terrible at the moment, and this is one of the worst seasons for freezing/thawing in about a decade. Roads have to be dry in order for the grader to work, so roads have to wait until then in order to be fixed. Middle Channel Drive and Golf Course Rd. will be regraded soon, as well as part of North Channel Drive and a private assessment nearby. Four emergency sirens will finally be installed on the Island this year, and West Shore was awarded the contract. They take care of the other sirens in the township. The Nature Park near the Schoolhouse Grille is being worked on; some grants have been awarded for the birding platform. The mainland beach park across from Kroger is in the design and engineering phase. Currently, this project is awaiting wetland delineation on that location, and the phragmites have been burned at that location as well. Clay Township turns 200 years old in 2022. "Clay Days" will take place during May 5-8, 2022 and will feature grave tours and storytelling. There will also be a beer tent, Miss America X, and a canoe from the 1700s will be featured. A team of local artists have painted 100-year-old windows and doors with "What These Windows Saw," including scenes from Clay Township in the past. Supervisor Bryson brought a Clay Days storyboard to show to the group to demonstrate a prototype. There will also be a time capsule / vault buried and the Township needs current items to place in the vault which won't be opened for another 100 years; please reach out to the Township if you have items to include. The tagline for this event is "To Remember, Honor, and Celebrate."

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of March, Chief Rose attended two meetings; the St. Clair Flats Association on Harsen's Island and St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association where general business was discussed. New radios have been installed in Engine #1 and Engine #2. The Clay Township Fire Department (CTFD) have started getting ready for the summer months by going through their equipment and medical bags that will be used on the fire and rescue boats.

The new LUCAS Device and AEDs have been ordered. The CTFD should receive the LUCAS Device in 3-4 weeks and the Life Pak 1000's in 6-8 weeks. Personnel will be trained on them as they are received, and they will be placed into service. The 1995 Mini-Pumper on the Island is looking to be replaced soon. The build on a replacement will take approximately 2 years in order to be put into service.

A CPR class is scheduled for next Saturday, April 16 taking place at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall. If you would like to register for this class, please call the Township to add your name to the list.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Grant Update:* A grant will be submitted soon for around \$440,000 which will include permanent restrooms, walking path around Browne's Field, and some type of outbuilding for a HISCFA headquarters (e.g. the former bank near the advertising sign). Another option would be to pursue the large property



adjacent to the fence at the field, which already has a structure that could possibly serve as the HQ/restrooms. The grant on the website is a living document and can be amended as necessary.

- *Committee List:* The HISCFA is looking at shoring up all of the committees to ensure their participation in the committees for which people have signed up for in the past. Please review the committee assignments and reach out to Craig Baloga if updates are needed.
- *Car Show:* The date for this year's event is July 16, 2022 from 9am-4pm. The DJ has been arranged, and Action Auto is going to pay for the trophies again this year. Additionally, several hundred dollars worth of goodies have been donated for raffles to date, and That's Minor Customs has also donated \$500 to use at our discretion. A new t-shirt design has also been created. Applications are available for pickup at today's meeting or at the website: <https://harsensislandcarshow.weebly.com/>. The Reader's Cove offered to give away some magazines and books that were donated to their library, at the time of the Car Show. In addition, Black and Decker Tools has grants available for donations and also volunteers for this event.
- *Membership Drive:* There will be about 16 letters being dropped in the mail to request some selected candidates for directors in the future. The list of candidates were selected by previous executive board members as possible new directors.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Nex-Trex Benches:* At the last meeting, Jane Mount indicated that it is possible to partner with Trex: they have a program where you can get a large box(es) and if you collect 500 lbs of plastic films (boat shrink wrap, plastic bags, etc.) over 6 months, you can get a free park bench. The boxes are picked up on a monthly basis. Tashmoo Marina offered to collect the shrink wrap from their location towards this cause.
- *Adopt-a-Highway:* This event is taking place on Saturday April 23, 2022 beginning at 10:00am. Please meet for the cleanup event at St. Mark Church on the Island; plan to wear boots and gloves, and bring along a rake or tool to reach the trash. We will provide the vests and we have plenty of bags.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Melanie Most reminded directors that three consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings is cause for director removal from the board, according to Section 4.5 of the HISCFA bylaws. Please ensure that you send an email or otherwise communicate your absence to the Recording Secretary prior to each Board meeting. If you know you will be out seasonally, you can communicate all dates in a single email rather than sending an email each month if that is more convenient.
- ✓ Russ Reinhardt and Dennis Schmalzel, the new owners of the Middle Channel Marina, introduced themselves to the group and were provided a warm welcome.

Next meeting will be Saturday, May 14, 2022 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Steve Lawrence seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.



Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (March 2022)

Memorial Brick Paver Project at Browne's Field, Sketch



Clay Township Fire & EMS

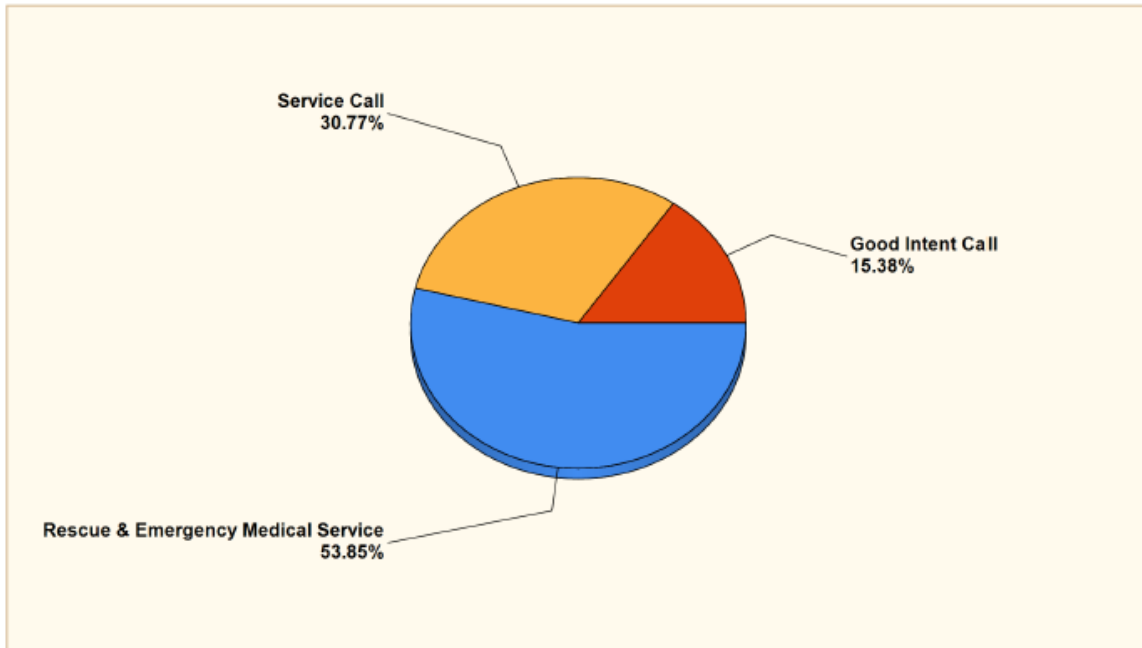
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 03/01/2022 | End Date: 03/31/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	7	53.85%
Service Call	4	30.77%
Good Intent Call	2	15.38%
TOTAL	13	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7	53.85%
500 - Service Call, other	3	23.08%
554 - Assist invalid	1	7.69%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	15.38%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	13	100%



Dimensions

Costs:

Excavate
Materials
Landscape
Labor

Ideas:

* Great Lakes Landscaping
Chartiers
Kaltz excavating
Other volunteers!
donations.

