



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

### Minutes May 14, 2022

**Directors Present:** Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, Jerry Freeman, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Excused:** Steve Gartland, Terry Wiggins;

**Unexcused:** Susan Bryson.

**Guests and Members Present:** Mike Balan, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Art Cook, Tracy Cook, Roger Favrow, Sandy Favrow, Dianne Huber, Doug Kaltz, Chuck Miller, Doreen Miller, Karen Nihranz, Ron Nihranz, George Rose, Joanne Shirkey, Jim Stieber.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:02 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The April 2022 meeting minutes were presented. **David Martin made the motion to approve the April 2022 meeting minutes, Leonard Verlinden seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

#### Executive Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the March and April 2022 Treasurer's Report. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for April 30, 2022 was \$68,590.04, with total cash on hand being \$140,785.72. Harold indicated that the Orlo McLane Scholarship of \$1,000 was paid out to Christian Neumann. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

**Steve Lawrence made the motion to approve the March and April 2022 treasurer's reports, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Margaret Marchwinski reported that it is an incredibly busy time with The Delta News but everything is coming together nicely. Barbara Crown and Art Woodford left some very large shoes to fill, and that is becoming evident with all of the work that is being contributed towards this year's publication.

**Communications:** There were no communications received this month.

**Browne's Field:** Dennis Szymanski reported that the field is in good shape. The first application of fertilizer has been applied, and the grass has already been cut this season. Dennis indicated that in the next month or so, some of the bare spots in the field will be addressed with some dirt and grass seed. The American Flag needs to be replaced on the field soon, so there was discussion about replacing the existing flag. Dennis and David Martin will be taking care of its replacement.



Government Affairs: Lois Whipple reported that the water level is down from the record highs in 2020.

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson:** Road paving on the Island will be taking place shortly. Middle Channel Drive, Bates Hwy, Middle Channel Drive, and Golf Course Road will all receive an update. The North Channel West special assessment will also get some attention. Crews will be hauling stone on the gravel roads as well. The water main project for a second feed of water to the Island is still in the planning stages. Supervisor Bryson requested \$2.5M for this project and he's pretty confident it will make it to committee but can't be certain about how much will actually be awarded at this time. Clay Days was a huge success last weekend. The Music in the Park series will begin June 17th at Browne's Field. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday at 6pm about the proposed beach park. There are several cases of blight that have been reported to the township and the offices are working through those. Several complaints have come in about blight at the ferry on the mainland, but Champion Auto Ferry (CAF) has open permits to work through so the material storage is justified. CAF has an appointment next week to discuss the terms of the permit and a date when it must be cleaned up. The Nature Park wetland delineation was completed last week, and the township is working with EGLE on the design for the park. The next step is to go after grants for this park; approximately \$300k is being targeted to support this project. The phragmites program is on hold due to lack of availability of chemicals to spray. Culvert work on the North Channel is also taking place. Joe Morrison asked about Columbine Road near his home where the road has crumbled. Supervisor Bryson indicated he is in discussion with MDOT about that public road M-154 along with an extended shoulder for bicycles. Island Cleanup will be the second weekend in June this year, in alignment with Clay Township and also Algonac as well.

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose:** During the month of March, Chief Rose attended three meetings; the St. Clair Flats Association on Harsens Island, the St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association, and TRI-EMS held a meeting with the downriver Fire Chiefs.

A CPR Class was held at the Harsens Island Lions Hall with about eleven residents in attendance.

Fire Boat #2 was put into the water and is in service. Chief Rose indicated he had to replace three batteries in Eng#4 as they were 10 years old. Engine #4 is now on the mainland and in service. For next year's budget he would like to replace some of the older equipment on Engine #4 such as nozzles, hose, and RIT equipment.

Chief Rose demonstrated the new LUKAS machine and how it does chest compressions. This unit is available at the Island Fire Station.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- *Grant Update:* Jane Mount indicated that on May 7th, 2022 a grant was submitted to Ralph C. Wilson Foundation and was confirmed as received. A total of \$430,000 was requested from this foundation and the Association is excited to hear back from them soon. The scope of the grant was all things related to Browne's Field (walking path, restrooms, building/headquarters for the HISCFA, etc.).
- *Committee List:* There have been a lot of shuffling around of persons on the committees to backfill persons who have left the Association. There will be some meetings taking place this month to get organized for this year's events.



- *Car Show:* Trophies have been ordered and purchased. Jerry Thiel has been advocating for donations from various local businesses. Craig Baloga indicated he is submitting sponsorship information from General Motors. Action Auto of Algonac is sponsoring trophies again for the fifth year in a row. David Martin indicated he has arranged the portable toilets to be made available for the events this summer. The date for this year's Car Show event is July 16, 2022 from 9am-4pm. Applications are available at the website: <https://harsensislandcarshow.weebly.com/>.
- *Nex-Trex Benches:* At the March 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. Three of these boxes have been received and placed at Tashmoo Marina. This adds up quickly with used shrinkwrap and can ultimately provide a choice of a few different styles of bench. It is our responsibility to take the boxes off the Island and drop at a predetermined location on the mainland. The cycle of collection is six months.
- *Road Cleanup:* This year's events were a huge success again this year. Many bags of trash and even some tires were pulled from the water's edge.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Island Walking Path Proposal:* Island resident Chuck Miller presented his proposal for a walking path around the Island, specifically on the dykes in the DNR area. Chuck had a conversation with local DNR representative John Darling to propose a non-motorized (walking-only) path, modeled after the one at St. John's Marsh. There would possibly be two foot bridges to access the dyke from the two DNR fishing/parking areas along M-154 near the South Channel / Bates Cut. The proposed path would need to be backed by the HISCFA to support Chuck (a citizen) in the event a grant would be needed to support this project for the benefit of any persons utilizing the natural resources of the area. This would be on the South Channel side of the dykes only at this time (not the Middle Channel side), and Chuck committed to assisting with phragmite control along one side of the dyke. Chuck is asking for a letter of support from the HISCFA for this endeavor. **Jerry Thiel made a motion for the HISCFA to write a letter of support for this effort, Steve Lawrence seconded; All in favor, motion carried.** Craig Baloga offered to draft the letter and the Executive Board will work on it together prior to its official submission.
- *Art Cook Marine Expansion:* Art Cook would like to put an addition on their building, and the township requires a 50-foot setback. The building sits on the property line and with the ordinance the way that it is written, it currently does not comply with the 50-foot setback. Art Cook Marine Service is asking for a variance of a 3-foot setback in order to accomplish their desire to expand out from the back of the building toward the Krispin Drain area. A schematic of the proposal was submitted and can be seen in the Appendix of this document. **Steve Lawrence made a motion to approve the variance of a 3-foot setback on the Browne's Field adjacent property, Linda Schoonover seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**
- *Field Day Raffle Prizes and volunteers:* Discussion took place with respect to the prizes for 2022 Field Day. Jerry Thiel suggested reaching out to local businesses for donations for prizes so that the HISCFA benefits directly instead of handing out a cash prize(s). **Steve Lawrence made a motion to approve the proposed raffle prizes for 2022 Field Day in the amount of \$750 for first prize, \$400 for second prize, and a book of ferry tickets (value = \$200) for third prize; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**



Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ David Bryson reported that the utility companies are bringing 10-14 trucks every day with a goal of replacing every pole on the Island (including cross-arms, insulators, etc.). He asked for everyone's patience while CAF works through that traffic.
- ✓ The first annual Summer Kickoff Bash takes place on May 21, 2022 at the Harsen's Island Lions. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Please contact Dennis Szymanski or Melissa Morrison for tickets. There will be a band, beer, and other activities.
- ✓ Harold Stieber indicated he has the liquor license application on Police Chief Koach's desk for approval.
- ✓ Linda Schoonover is asking for leads on vendors for Field Day. Please get with Linda if you would like to participate or have any information on possible vendors.
- ✓ June 25th will be the Shred Event at Browne's Field along with Trunk-to-Trunk taking place on the same day.

Next meeting will be Saturday, June 11, 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 10:27 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

[MelanieM@hiscfa.org](mailto:MelanieM@hiscfa.org)



## APPENDIX

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

Proposed Setback / Building at Art Cook Marine Service / Adjacent to Browne's Field Property



# Clay Township Fire & EMS

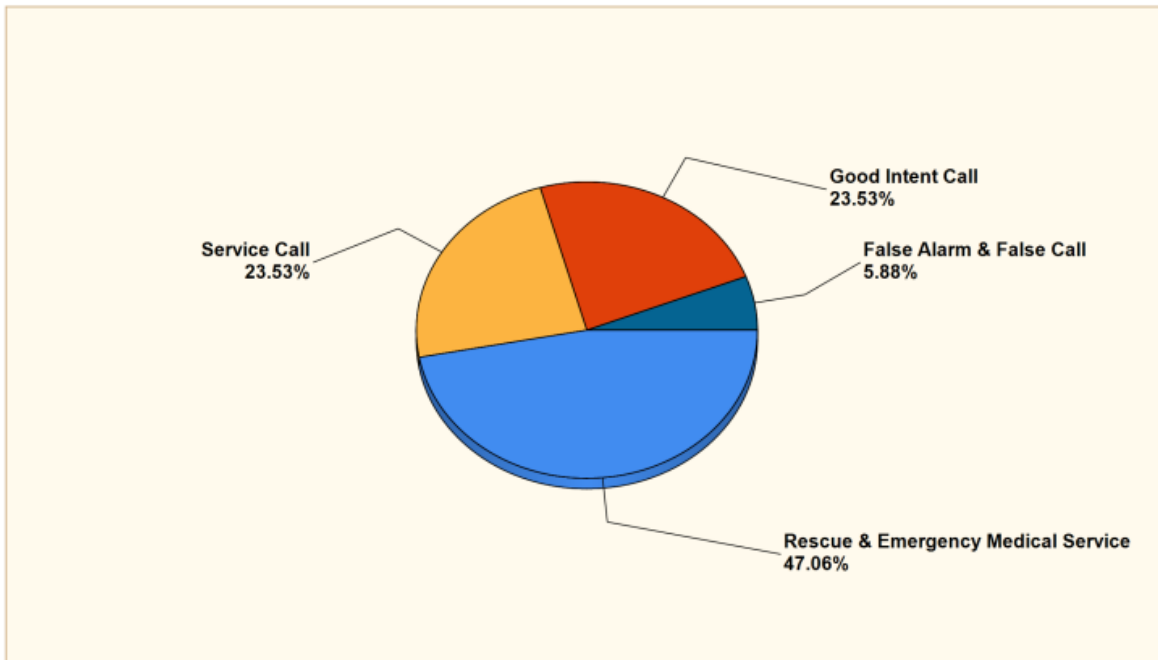
Clay Township, MI

This report was generated on 5/11/2022 11:38:23 AM



## Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 04/01/2022 | End Date: 04/30/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	8	47.06%
Service Call	4	23.53%
Good Intent Call	4	23.53%
False Alarm & False Call	1	5.88%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	8	47.06%
554 - Assist invalid	1	5.88%
561 - Unauthorized burning	1	5.88%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	2	11.76%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	4	23.53%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	5.88%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>



Proposed Setback / Building at Art Cook Marine Service / Adjacent to Browne's Field Property

