



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes May 13, 2023

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Susan Bryson;

Unexcused: Jerry Freeman, Kathy O'Connor, Terry Wiggins;

Guests and Members Present: Mike Balan, Joe Bosy, Artie Bryson, Jeanne Buczycycki, John Dickson, Shelly Dickson, Roger Favrow, Sandy Favrow, Barb Feldman, Mike Galati, Maryann Grau, Kathleen Harrison, Christine Holcomb, Chuck Kukawka, Chuck Miller, Doreen Miller, Jane Mount, Cher Neumann, Dan Neumann, Karen Nihranz, Keith Petty, Monica Petty, Chris Pietras, Cindy Pilato, Ken Quint, George Rose, Pat Schulte, Pete Schulte, Jim Stieber, Eileen Tesch, Rick Toth, Jeff Wade, Sally Wade, Myra Wildner, Randy Wildner.

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

The April 2023 meeting minutes were presented. **David Martin made the motion to approve the April 2023 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 presented the April 2023 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for April 30, 2023 was \$89,102.52 with total cash on hand being \$155,439.30. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Steve Lawrence made the motion to approve the April 2023 treasurer's reports, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Margaret Marchwinski stated that the past month has mainly been finalizing The Delta News. Membership renewals are still open but closing soon, so if you have not yet renewed your membership, it is important to do that soon otherwise your name will not be included in the roster in The Delta News.

Communications: There are no official communications to report this month.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski indicated that there was some freeze damage to the main water station outside taps, which required them to be replaced. Additionally, the main water line in the pole barn cracked and needed repair. The repair is complete there, and a new door for the pole barn has been ordered to replace the one that is currently installed which is very worn out. The kitchen will need a little TLC since mice got in there and destroyed all items in the drawers throughout the kitchen. A committee will need to get together to clean it out and if anything



needs to be left in drawers, they should be in sealed containers. Previously, George and Barb Crown used to spearhead the effort to keep all of Browne's Field tidy (barn, kitchen, etc.) but no one has really picked up these tasks since they moved. If Field rentals are to take place, it is important to keep the rental areas tidy. Margaret will call a meeting with the Executive Board and the Browne's Field committee to identify and assign tasks at the field. Several other volunteers raised their hands to assist with this cleanup.

Additional stone was added in front of the portable toilets at Browne's Field to fill in the low area. The portable toilets are cleaned on Mondays, but Dave Martin can be contacted to arrange for an additional cleaning if necessary. Margaret recommended obtaining a portable handwashing station for HISCFA events where food is being served (like the car show and Field Day). Dave Martin will inquire with the current service whether that will be possible.

Dennis suggested adding asphalt millings to the main area/entrance to the Browne's Field parking lot. He measured it out and estimated that it would take 6 loads (15 tons per load) at \$450 each delivered (\$2,700), then approximately \$500 to grade it out, for a total estimated cost of around \$3,300. Dennis entertained a motion to spend approximately \$3,300 to place asphalt millings (about 2" deep) at the apron/entrance to Browne's Field and extend from the main road and back about 250-300 feet. **Steve Lawrence made a motion to approve \$3,300 for the aforementioned project; Dave Martin seconded: all in favor, motion passes.**

Dennis mentioned that the county came in and replaced both culverts. The pond level is currently lake level, so for us to use the pump would just be recycling the lake water, so it is not prudent to do that at this time. If the water comes back up, we would block it off and then pump it out at that time. Also, a tree fell on the fence some time ago, and that has been arranged to be repaired this coming week.

There is a preliminary area identified where the walking path will be placed. Dennis suggested moving forward on the bench project, to coordinate placing benches along where the path has been proposed. President Craig Baloga agreed to proceed. Dave Martin will follow up on inquiries for the benches. Cindy Pilato recommended getting the fundraising thermometer out again and set out a booth at the Sans Souci Block Party to solicit donations to get the walking path funds raised. Dennis indicated he will put the walking path proposal out for quote again to see whether the costs have changed to get a better idea of what it will cost, to have a target for the amount of funds to be raised. The cost will be identified, and a table will be set up during the Block Party next weekend.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple read aloud Paul Wargo's water update that he posted on social media recently. *"In spite of all the rain the lake level remains steady right around 575.5. However, a trend is beginning to develop. A month ago we were right where we were last year at that time; now we are 3" lower than last year. That is in keeping with the Corps prediction that we will be 6" lower this summer than last year. However, the new 6 Month Forecast is out and there is a hopeful sign - they predict we will not drop as fast or as much this fall as we did last year."*

Lois double-checked with the high school and the only candidate available to receive the HISCFA scholarship did not apply. Kathy Harrison took it upon herself to contact the candidate and let her know that there are several scholarships available, so Kathy will collect the applications and help her fill them out to successfully submit them.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Grant Update:* There were two grants applied for, but both were denied. Many of these grants are looking for programs that are sponsored (i.e. pickleball), as opposed to funding capital expenditures. However, since HISCFA doesn't sponsor pickleball and the pickleball players are an outside group, the grants would not be awarded to the HISCFA. It is possible to re-submit for a grant at the same place, so it may be worthwhile to more appropriately word the application to better fit the criteria. Jane Mount indicated that she and Harold will continue to reapply for grants until at least one is finally awarded. A question was raised about whether the HISCFA could utilize the Clay Township grant writer, and it was determined that because the HISCFA is an independent 501(c)(3) and the Township is a governmental agency, the HISCFA is not in any position to utilize that Township resource unless it was a paid service, which is not being pursued at this time.
- *Sans Souci Downtown Inc. Update:* Cindy Pilato indicated that the SSDI meet-and-greet took place on April 18th which Susan Schweikart mentioned in the last HISCFA meeting she attended. Senator Hertel and his aide were present, as well as Terry Campbell from Debbie Stabenow's office, our county commissioner, as well as people from the St. Clair County Community Foundation. SSDI's goal for this event was to introduce the group to the Island and Sans Souci, as well as introduce the group's goal to revitalize the area and capitalize on the many opportunities to improve the area. There was a luncheon and a tutorial about Harsen's Island then/now, and later there was a group bus tour through the Island. The general consensus from all of the visitors was that they could not believe the challenges that the Island is facing as far as the lack of services, the poor state / deterioration of the downtown area, and the challenges that are faced in order to revitalize downtown Sans Souci. Overall it was a very positive event, and first and foremost the waste issue was identified as the biggest hurdle to getting additional businesses operating in the area. SSDI was very pleased about the open dialogue and productive conversation amongst all the people in attendance, and direction was provided as to where to look for funding to overcome some of these hurdles. SSDI wanted to thank the HISCFA for the donation that was committed to help facilitate that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- *New Pickleball Quotation:* Jim Stieber spoke about how pickleball has become extremely popular, and how there has gotten up to around 30 people on the Island showing up to play lately. The previous vendor who provided a quotation for resurfacing the court ended up being unreliable and didn't show up for appointments. There was another quote that came through that was extremely high and out of budget. Another quotation came in and was discussed at this meeting and it was very reasonable. The quotation covered what would be done to the existing tennis court area. The posts from the tennis courts would need to be removed because they've heaved and are loose, the area by the backboard has been busted up, and the surface is uneven and has become a hazard. This new system will utilize mesh and epoxy, and will end up being a smooth finish to include resurfacing with 2 coats of each color, will be lined for four different pickleball courts & lined for tennis, and includes a net system for all courts. This quotation came in at \$22,329.47. This company specializes in resurfacing tennis courts and has been around for over 25 years, which is much more experience than the previous two vendors combined (by far). Last year, there was a motion to spend \$12,000 for the pickleball updates at Browne's Field. **Dennis Szymanski made a motion to spend the \$22,329.47 to upgrade the tennis court per the quotation and description mentioned previously, Steve Lawrence seconded; all in favor, motion carried.** Jeanne Burczyk gets the word out about pickleball on social media and in The Flyer, and it is expected that the group will grow this summer as well.



- *Field Day Raffle Prizes and volunteers:* Discussion took place with respect to the prizes for 2023 Field Day. **Steve Lawrence made a motion to approve the proposed raffle prizes for 2023 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.**
- *License Application:* Margaret Marchwinski asked whether the Association could get the licensing initiated for the events which require them, in order to get started on raffle tickets for all of the events this year. **Steve Lawrence made a motion for the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association's application for a special license to serve alcohol on the dates of August 5, 2023 and September 16, 2023; both events to take place at Browne's Field on Harsen's Island, Michigan. Dave Martin seconded.**
Ayes: 12. Nays: 0. Absent: 4. All in favor; motion carried.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson is pretty busy today: the St. John's Marsh Cleanup is today, as well as the annual Clay Days and Powwow this weekend. Next weekend is the Sans Souci Block Party. There are three bands scheduled and there will be 2 stages: 10 Beach Drive, Dogfish, and the Meldrum Brothers. All non-profit organizations are invited to participate. The Island Grind will be doing hot dogs and subs, Jane's Sans Souci Market will be selling pizza and pulled pork, and the HISCFA will be putting on a Shrimp Boil.

Next weekend is the spring Island Cleanup at Browne's Field. A meeting attendee suggested that the township purchase some vacant properties near town to utilize for permanent parking, to increase capacity since the downtown area has extremely limited parking with not much room to expand where parking is currently established. Sans Souci Downtown Inc. is in favor of promoting/keeping a nautical theme for the façades downtown, and eventually some lighting and sidewalks would be great.

Supervisor Bryson announced that there will be an algae plant tour in LaPorte, Indiana on Wednesday, May 17th. Any interested persons can contact Supervisor Bryson for details: supervisor@claytownship.org. Bussing and lunch will be provided. *If it is not possible for you to attend in person, please write a letter in support of this project.* It is important that Sans Souci stakeholders attend in order to get it funded. Several people from the Mainland are interested, and unfortunately there are more Mainlanders than Islanders that are currently signed up. There are opportunities at the end of Elm and Poplar streets, as well as Tashmoo Marina and near the cell tower on the South Channel. It is estimated to cost approximately \$3M in preliminary costs for the plant and the collection system, but it is targeted to be completely funded at no cost to taxpayers in the township. However, it is important to talk to the company that makes this and see/smell it up close to really get some buy-in on the idea. Ultimately, if this was installed on the Island, it would be possible to dump RV waste, septic waste, etc. (at a cost) into this plant. The footprint is only 30 feet x 90 feet. Up to 85% of the electricity will be produced from solar panels on the plant. It would be allowed for people to tap in for free at first, but after that there would be a monthly cost that has yet to be worked out depending on how many people signed up. If enough people joined, it might only cost \$25-\$30 per month to tap into it. It is possible to add-on (an additional plant) later to increase usage and throughput. Currently, users go through about 10,000 gallons per day, but this plant would be capable of up to 25,000 gallons per day. This would alleviate a lot of septic problems for a lot of people. Chuck Miller volunteered to attend the trip and make a formal report to the HISCFA and the Township with whatever documentation is needed to get it moving forward. Doreen Miller also volunteered to attend on behalf of the Reader's Cove in Sans Souci.

Next week, three new pickleball courts will be put in place in the Clay Township Park. They will be put in where the volleyball court is currently located, and the volleyball court will be relocated. There were issues with sand ending up in the splash pad due to wind blowing, which drove the decision to move the location of the volleyball court.



Additionally, there will be parking and permanent restrooms put in place at the Pearl Beach pier. The Clay Township Board was very supportive and approved the project to move the current playscape at the Clay Township Park over to Browne's Field, since the Park will be getting brand new playscape(s) completely funded by grants. There will be a bicycle repair kiosk, an outdoor foosball table, and three cornhole boards installed as well.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of April, Chief Rose attended one meeting, the St Clair Flats Association meeting on Harsen's Island.

The CTFD picked up their new Chevy 3500 HD dual-wheel pickup truck for the main station, and a Chevy 2500 HD pickup for the Island station. They hope to have lights, sirens, stripes and in service by the end of May.

The final early warning siren was moved from Voakes Rd to 4001 South Channel. The CTFD had issues with State and Federal land with respect to the previously-selected location. The siren will be installed at the South Channel location the first week of May.

Fire Boat #1 Fuel and Air injectors were shipped to Merten Marine in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They will be cleaned and tested to make sure they are all calibrated and flowing within their operational settings. They are complete now and should be returned next week.

The CTFD along with Ira, Algonac, and Marine City were involved in a joint dive training exercise with the St. Clair County Dive Team, St. Clair County Sheriff Marine Division, and eleven other Sheriff Department Dive Teams from Southeastern Michigan. The scenario was that a parachute plane went down in the North Channel just north of the DNR site on Pte. Tremble Rd. The training involved how local departments respond and use the resources available within the county.

Chief Rose also indicated that he has approval to bring on three new part-time employees to the CTFD: **David Welch** recently moved back to Michigan from Florida. David is a past employee of our department. He holds the following certifications: Firefighter 1&2, and EMT for the State of Michigan. **Nicholas Patrick Hudgens** is currently a firefighter for Clyde Township Fire Department. His duties are firefighter, driver operator, EMT. he is also employed with Duty Free Americas Store in Port Huron. Nicholas is certified in Michigan Firefighter 1&2 & State of Michigan EMT. **Les Joseph Petitpren** is currently a firefighter for New Haven Fire Department and his duties include firefighter, driver operator, EMT. Les is also employed with Critical Heating & Cooling and the Michigan Air Guard Air Force Medical Technician Aerospace. Les is certified as a Firefighter 1&2 & State of Michigan EMT.

Regarding the fire at The Old Club, the investigation is not yet complete, but will be meeting with insurance investigators soon to discuss details. Chief Rose will come back to a future HISCFA meeting to report the cause of fire that was determined.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Supervisor Bryson indicated that the township was provided (as a donation from Cargill Salt) 800 total of Red Oak, White Oak, Burr Oak and, Shag Bark Hickory trees (200 of each kind). The township will give them away free at Clay Days, May 13 starting around 11 am in the Clay Park.



- ✓ Craig Baloga passed around the new design for the Car Show t-shirt for everyone to see. The car show is taking place on Saturday, July 15th, 2023.
- ✓ Margaret Marchwinski asked all HISCFA directors to congregate at the back wall after the meeting for a group photo for The Delta News.

Next meeting will be Saturday, June 10, 2023 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn; Dave Martin seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (April 2023)

Bus Trip to Indiana to see the Algaewheel Wastewater Plant flier from Clay Township



Clay Township Fire & EMS

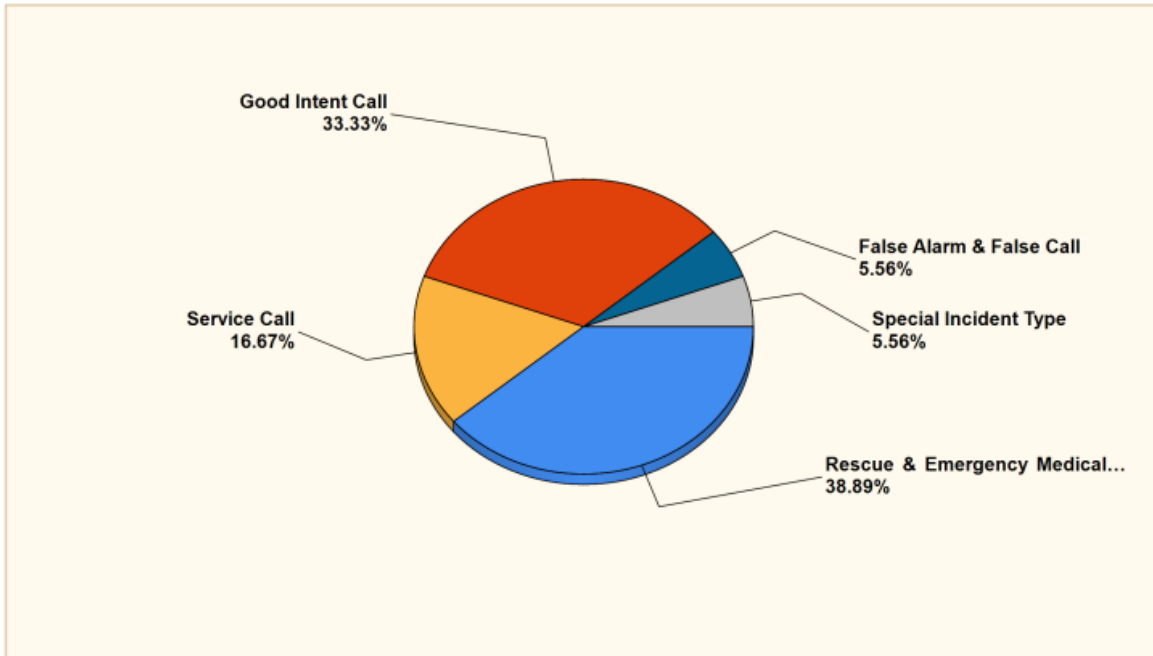
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 04/01/2023 | End Date: 04/30/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	7	38.89%
Service Call	3	16.67%
Good Intent Call	6	33.33%
False Alarm & False Call	1	5.56%
Special Incident Type	1	5.56%
TOTAL	18	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	16.67%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	4	22.22%
500 - Service Call, other	2	11.11%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	5.56%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	5.56%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	5	27.78%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1	5.56%
911 - Citizen complaint	1	5.56%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	18	100%



Bus Ride to tour Algaewheel Wastewater Plant in LaPort IN.

**Bus leaves Mainland side of ferry at 7 am,
May 17. Return around 5 pm - 6 pm.**

People have come to the Twp with issues getting septic permits. In response to this, the Twp is looking at solutions which one is an Algaewheel treatment plant that utilizes algae to treat the water. The plant looks like a greenhouse. This would provide service to downtown Sans Souci and the surrounding area. The goal would be to get this plant paid for by State and Federal grants. This is to tour a similar plant for interested people, stakeholders and concerned residents, a chance to see how the system works, ask any questions to the engineers. Lunch will be provided, let us know if you have special dietary needs. To make a reservation, either email supervisor@claytownship.org or text a message to 810.335.9955.

