



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes November 9, 2019

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Susan Bryson, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Jerry Freeman, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Rosemary Wieczorek;

Excused: Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

Guests and Members Present: Lucy Burby, Kathy Harrison, Linda Pavia, Norman Rhodes, George Rose, Brian Sears, Jim Stieber.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The October 2019 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the October 2019 meeting minutes, Craig Baloga seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the October Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for October 31, 2019 was \$53,566.89, with total cash on hand being \$76,882.23. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Neva Covalle made the motion to approve the October treasurer's reports, Craig Baloga seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Nothing new to report at this time; membership sits at a total of 745 members currently.

Communications: No communications were received this month.

Government Affairs: George Covalle reported that with Patrick Feighan gone, some people are needed to step up and assist. George stated that he and Harold Stieber along with Craig Baloga will head up this effort going forward.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski reported that the driveway was closed for a few days this past week to evacuate almost two feet of water level from the pond and ditches. The Bates Cut water station has been winterized for the season, as well as the outside water taps at the main water station. The interior water station is accessible by purchasing a water station card. Please see the phone number on the door to gain access. Island property owner Don Vlcek reached out to donate an adjustable basketball backstop/hoop with pole attached. Don's suggestion was to provide the basketball hoop to the Association in exchange for HISCFA membership. Discussion ensued about whether to accept this trade or simply accept the donation and insist on a paid membership. After a lengthy discussion, **Harold Stieber made a motion to accept the basketball hoop/backstop/pole donation in trade for a one-year paid membership; Craig Baloga seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** Dennis Szymanski also discussed the concern over the recent work done near the back of the main water station.



Kaltz Excavating conducted work on behalf of DTE Energy to bring additional power lines to the island, but in the process they groomed over an existing drain. Kaltz Excavating stated the drain wasn't on their maps, the road commission claimed it wasn't their problem, but the water department located it on their map. The water department is currently looking into this, and perhaps they will be assisting with this endeavor since the Township owns this property. There is a drain that runs under M-154 between Browne's Field and the water station which *is* working properly. The problem is the drain between the water station and out to the North Channel. Member and guest Kathy Harrison stated that she noticed a small hole in the pipe below the long sink which causes water to drip out onto the floor of the inside of water station.

There is a ditch being repeatedly (illegally) dug through the driveway in front of the large signboard by someone outside of the HISCFA. This has the potential to cause great damage to vehicles driving across it. Board members have stated the police have been alerted but time after time, the ditch returns. Craig Baloga stated the he will fill in the ditch this weekend.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose stated some of the things that have occurred in the past month. Fire Boat 1 was pulled out of the water to get a much-needed paint job. Fire Boat 2 is still in the water in the event a water rescue is needed, and the Fire Airboat is still on the Island in the Fire Station if needed. The pump capacity test was conducted on all of the pumps within the department. One truck failed the test because a Check Engine light keeps coming on, and they are working to resolve the issue on that particular truck which is stationed on the Mainland. Fire Engine 2 was removed from the Island to have an emergency brake fixed, as well as to fix a leak in the pipe to the pump. Fire Engine 2 will be returned to the Island once the repairs are complete. The fire department conducted fire prevention awareness at the lower schools where there were around 375 children in attendance. There were 1,172 calls received to the township year-to-date; 121 from October alone, and out of that 121 there were 12 calls from the Island. The township is allowing the fire department to purchase two new fire trucks, and Chief Rose will be travelling to Florida to sign the paperwork and start production of those units. It is possible that one of those two new units will come over to the Island to replace Fire Engine 1. It is possible that they will be looking at spec'ing out a mini-pumper as well since the one we have is from 1995. Chief Rose stated that he intends to man the Island station at least three times per week or more, but there are two people in paramedic class, and one in degree-program for fire training. Each month he intends to provide the list of emergency calls placed to the township (including the Island) so that they may be published in our minutes each month. Look for that information in the Appendix of this document each month.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Investments:* George Covalle and Harold Stieber have been working on putting together a forecast of funds by liquidating our CDs and taking some of the excess money in the checking account and investing it with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County (CFSCC). As an aside, one of the topics of discussion at the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA, mentioned below in New Business) was when Harold inquired about the possibility of writing grants and whether anyone from GLIA knew anything about this particular Foundation. One particular individual had contact with the CFSCC and they had nothing but good things to say about this Foundation. This individual stated it was a wonderfully-run organization with real, professional oversight on their activities, funds, and investments. Harold stated that there was \$7,336.46 in a CD that has matured, so Harold liquidated it into the checking account to avoid incurring penalties. If he took out both CDs plus \$36,600 out of the checking account, the HISCFA would have \$60,000 to invest in the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. The invested money can be pulled out at any time for any reason. Nine out of the past 10 years has resulted in a positive result. Over a ten-year period, the average gain was 9.9 percent. As a comparison, our current investments are getting 0.6 percent and 0.55 percent.



The Foundation is working with 80 million dollars of non-profit organizations money, and there are small administrative fees associated with this situation. There was much discussion on the topic but ultimately **Jerry Thiel made a motion for the HISCFA to initiate contact with the CFSCC to enter into an investment with them of up to \$60,000, Susan Bryson seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

- *Portable Toilets:* Harold Stieber spoke to David Martin about this topic. There are four units at Browne's Field and one at the ferry landing on the mainland. Harold stated that the township has not been paying for the mainland toilet. Apparently the service provider did not have the address to the township, so the bill was not being sent to the township. The HISCFA agreed to continue paying for the mainland unit through December 1st, when the service provider will begin billing the township. Although there are currently four units at Browne's Field, but only one unit will be left at Browne's Field over the winter and the township will be handling payment for the unit at the ferry.
- *Annual Membership Letter:* Barbara Crown stated that she will volunteer to write the Annual Letter with the assistance of George Covalle. Linda Pavia expressed interest in proofreading. Barbara Crown stated that she would like to keep the letter mailed out in the spring as a way to capture the addresses, and also to bring the revenue in (early in the year) in order to support all of the summer activities. Additionally, by the time The Delta News goes out (which is a costly mailing), perhaps the address is not correct or they are no longer members.

NEW BUSINESS

- *GLIA Report:* Harold Stieber presented a summary of the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) organization's 3rd annual summit which took place on Mackinac Island during October 20-23, 2019. Harold was pleased to see that attendance to this event was essentially double of what it was from last year's meeting. Since it is now a 501(c)(3) organization, the GLIA has received a grant of \$50,000. Harold's part in this year's summit was to get a line item on the agenda to discuss grant-writing and how to apply for grants in general. This is basically an organization of islands, for islands. A copy of the summary can be found in the Appendix of this document.
- *Browne's Field digital sign:* Barbara Crown introduced Norman Rhodes to the group to discuss some of the costs associated with the sign. It was purchased and installed in 2010; and it went out recently and the main control board had given up. A new board was installed and that was not the solution to the problem. Norman troubleshooted the problem and determined it to be a problem with a ribbon cable. It is a single-color (amber) LED sign and is operated by a modem. With the location of the sign there are three ways to update the message on the sign: go to the sign and plug in a laptop, over a modem (what we chose originally), or through Ethernet (which is not on the field). On that AT&T phone line, DSL can be obtained if it is wanted. Currently it is very clunky to be operated by a modem (and a personal computer) because it is a very low-end arrangement. A severe power outage will trip a circuit inside the sign, and someone needs to climb up there and flip it. It has performed well in the past 9 years with very minimal problems. One of the only drawbacks is its smaller size and the nature of the message has to have a proportionate font size to be able to be read on the continuous banner with the message. The size of the sign is roughly two feet by six feet.
- *Resignation of Todd Brady:* George Covalle announced that Todd Brady has tendered his resignation as a Director. Discussion ensued about handing over administrative rights to the social media accounts, card readers, and the website. Melanie Most pointed out that Todd's company (not always Todd personally) provides paid technical support to the HISCFA when necessary. Barbara Crown indicated she would reach out to Todd to discuss this matter.
- *Water Station:* George Covalle stated that he had an opportunity to meet with architect Bob Williams about a code-compliant permanent restroom intended for use at Browne's Field. Bob was unaware of the



architecture of the water station portion of the proposed facility and how that would be incorporated in a design for a restroom / water station going forward at the Field. In doing so, George became curious about the costs associated with operating the water station. Harold Stieber put together the expenses to present at today's meeting. There are around 80 card-holders for the water station, but they only pay a \$20 security deposit. The Association is taking in about \$1,000 each year between the coin-operation and also donations, but the Association is also spending about \$5,400 each year just to provide this service to the Island residents / members.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Susan Bryson expressed interest in putting together a HISCFA Winter Fest event. This would be a fundraiser to benefit the permanent restroom project at Browne's Field. This event would have free admission (donations accepted) and is being sponsored by several local businesses. Look for the flyer on Nextdoor, Facebook, and the HISCFA webpage (hiscfa.org), as well as the Appendix of this document.
- ✓ Jerry Thiel stated concern over hosting the Car Show on the Island again next year, and that a contingency plan should be put in place to possibly hold the Car Show off the Island. The site would need to be held somewhere relatively close to the Island so that the HISCFA doesn't go yet another year without getting that revenue. Additionally, if it cancelled once again, excitement for this show will dwindle and lose popularity for many years to come. Major factors to consider are water levels (at the Field), water levels in general, as well as ferry conditions (ability to safely transport classic vehicles).
- ✓ Directors' Christmas Party is December 14th. A written invitation will follow.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Melanie Most seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

3rd Annual Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) Summit – Summary

Clay Township Fire Department Calls Received (October 2019) – Clay Township

Clay Township Fire Department Calls Received (October 2019) – Harsen's Island

Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association WINTERFEST Flyer



For Islands, By Islands

3rd Annual Great Lakes Islands Summit Hosted on Mackinac Island

There are nearly 30 year-round island communities in the Great Lakes. Though independent by choice, they are facing economic, social, and ecological challenges that require a higher degree of collaboration and cooperation. On October 20 -23, 2019, over 130 people from 14 Great Lakes islands convened at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island, Michigan, for the 3rd Annual Great Lakes Islands Summit. This meeting serves as the annual member meeting for the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA). The Summit is the only Great Lakes-wide event dedicated to the needs of island communities to foster relationships and share information about Great Lakes island living. Great Lakes islands share many common challenges. As a single island we are easily overlooked when facing these challenges, but as a group of islands we are able to leverage our experiences through the GLIA network and have a more amplified voice.

This year's attendance nearly doubled, proving the validity of this bi-national group as an important network with a unique purpose. Thanks to the administrative support of Northland College, the group was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Mott Foundation. With this financial support, GLIA will spend the next 12 months establishing the Great Lakes Islands Alliance as a legal entity, an influential voice for policies to protect the interests of Great Lakes islands and continue to provide a support network for year-round island communities. Featured speakers at the 2019 Summit included Lisa Powers, chairwoman of the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians; Phil Porter, Director, Mackinac State Historic Parks; Eric Ellis, Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission and Lisa Brush, founder and executive director of the award-winning Stewardship Network. Utilizing these and other networked resources, we hope to seek and apply for grants to provide funding for upcoming long term community projects such as the Browne's Field restrooms and walking path on Harsens Island.

Several informational breakout sessions provided insight on tourism, affordable housing, health care, environmental conservation, schools, faith communities, community foundations, infrastructure, and more. Guided field trips to the school, library, airport, medical center, fire and police department, solid waste handling facility, and the water treatment plant allowed fellow islanders a chance to see how Mackinac Island addresses these essential necessities.

The GLIA members from Mackinac Island took significant responsibility for arranging logistics and designing agenda content for this year's event. Additional assistance and oversight was provided by the GLIA Steering Committee, GLIA staff coordinator Matt Preisser with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and valued partner organizations of Northland College and the Island Institute of Maine.

The event was hosted at the Mission Point Resort, which provided a beautiful setting for the event. Financial support for the 2019 Great Lakes Islands Summit was made possible by the Mackinac Island Community Foundation, Grand Hotel, Island Airways, and the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians. The 2020 Great Lakes Island Summit will take place at the member islands in Lake Erie. To learn more about GLIA, visit www.greatlakesislandsalliance.org.



Clay Township Fire & EMS

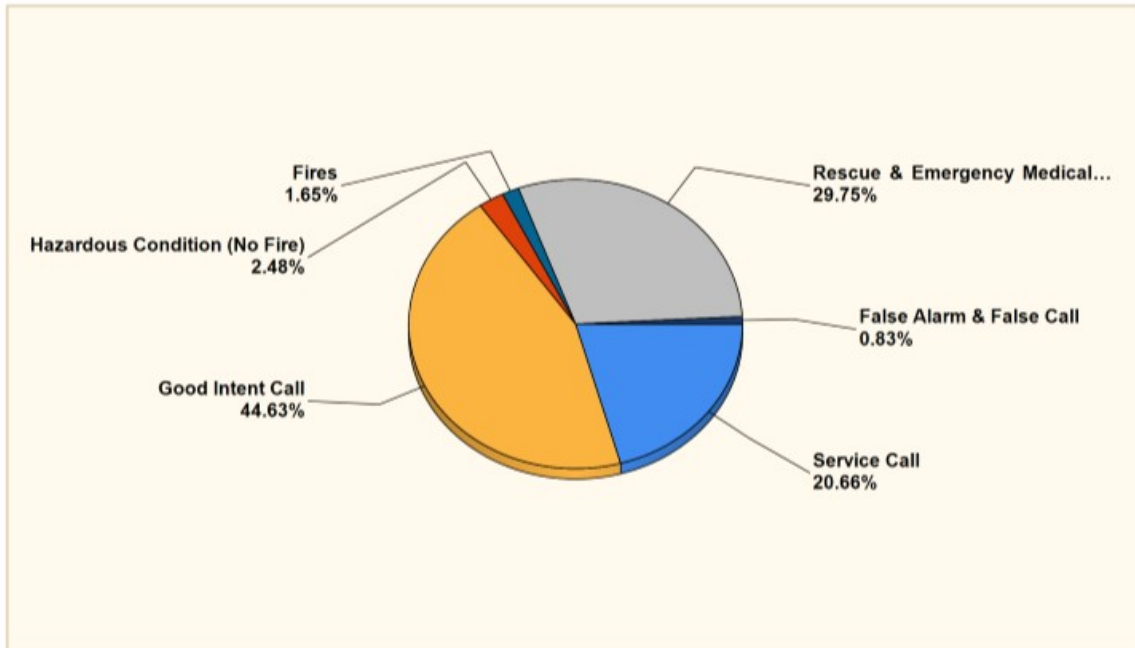
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 10/01/2019 | End Date: 10/31/2019



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	2	1.65%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	36	29.75%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	3	2.48%
Service Call	25	20.66%
Good Intent Call	54	44.63%
False Alarm & False Call	1	0.83%
TOTAL	121	100.00%



Clay Township Fire & EMS

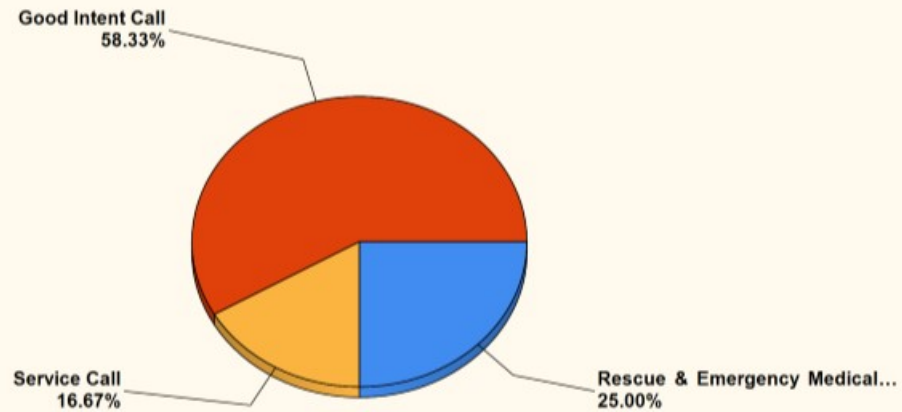
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 10/01/2019 | End Date: 10/31/2019



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	3	25.00%
Service Call	2	16.67%
Good Intent Call	7	58.33%
TOTAL	12	100.00%



1st ANNUAL HISCFA WINTER FEST

December 7, 2019 – BROWN'S FIELD 1-4pm

Proceeds/Donations go to "Permanent Restroom Project"

- *Face Painting*
- *Marshmallow roasting*
- *Tree Lighting Ceremony*
- *Vendors*
- *Santa Arrives with gift-giving 2-3pm*
 - *Games & Raffles*
- *Snow Coloring Contest*
 - *Sledding*
 - *Food*
 - *Hot Chocolate*
 - *Bonfire*
- *Caroling by Harsens Island "Marshmallows"*

FREE ADMISSION

