

JULY 26, 2020

Meeting Minutes - Harsens Island Transportation Authority provided by Skip Tornow. Harsens Island Transportation Authority Meeting Minutes

Meeting held July 26, 2020 at Browns Field

Meeting called to order at 5:00 by Harold Bain

Roll Call – Harold Bain – Present

Margie Baldwin – Present

Gary Beaulac – Present

Dennis Szymanski – Absent

Wayne (Skip) Tornow – Present

Election of Officers

Discussion of open positions ensued with Motions made/passed for the following

Chairperson – Margie Baldwin

Vice-Chairperson – Harold Bain

Treasurer – Gary Beaulac

Secretary – Skip Tornow

Additionally two committee chairpersons were appointed

Legislative/Government Affairs – Norm Rhodes

History- Blog Site – Whitey Simon

Frequency of meeting – Motion by Tornow, seconded by Bain to hold meetings on a quarterly basis. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting dates TBD.

Purpose of HITA - Gary Beaulac read the HITA Mission Statement. Several questions ensued as to past history. Board recommended that these questions can be answered by viewing the blog site at the following address islandauthority.blogspot.com

Committee Member Term Limits. Baldwin/Tornow appointed by the Township for 2 year terms. Bain, Beaulac, & Szymanski appointed for 3 year terms by HISCFA.

Public Comments – There were 50+ citizens in attendance. Below are highlights of their comments

HITA bylaws need to be reviewed/revised where necessary

Maintain a close working relationship between HITA & HISCFA.

What has happened in the past 20 years? What happened with the bridge discussion? – Questions of this nature were referred to the above mentioned blog site, where a chronological listing of past events/milestones is recorded.

Recommendation that the committee look into what American Bridge has to offer

Multiple questions regarding ferry rate increases by Champion Ferry.

When will construction be completed on the new docks? Is there a timeline available? Dave Bryson (Champion Ferry Owner) requested Peter Bryson to investigate making this available.

Are safety inspections being conducted on new docks? Committee agreed to assist in determining proper governmental agency that can address these concerns.

Questions raised regarding funding for HITA. Harold Bain stated that now that HITA is organized with officers we can begin to make inquiries for both Federal and State assistance. There is still approximately \$500 in a local checking account.

Does HITA have an address to send letters/correspondence to? Margie Baldwin to investigate availability of a PO Box at the Harsens Island post office.

Will additional Park & Ride spaces be made available?

Dave Bryson cited a recent experience where a lady fell and was injured while the ferry was docking. Champion Ferry was subsequently approached requesting compensation for her injuries. There are signs on each side of the ferry crossing advising pedestrians enter at their own risk. Apparently the disclaimer did not hold up and Champions insurance settled with her. Bryson stated that his current insurance does not cover pedestrians. He requested HITA's involvement in finding a workable solution to the situation. Per Bryson there are approximately 300-400 walk on pedestrians & bikers/week in the summer.

Is there a rate increase planned for next year?

Will Champion consider tiered rates for full-time residents vs. Part time/visitors?

Why have the State Police not been involved in meetings regarding the rate increases?

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tornow – seconded by Beaulac.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40PM