

Jan 10, 2021

Draft – Harsens Island Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held January 10, 2021 at Brown's Field Meeting called to order at 1:00PM by Margie Baldwin.

Roll Call Harold Bain present

Margie Baldwin present

Gary Beaulac present

Dennis Szymanski present Wayne (Skip) Torrow present

Approval of the agenda – motion made by Torrow to move Public Comments to after the Survey Results. Second by Baldwin. Motion approved 5-0.

Approval of minutes from August 16, 2020 meeting – Motion by Baldwin to approve – second by Bain. Motion approved 5-0.

Treasures Report – report by Beaulac – (attached)

Survey Results – Torrow presented survey results (attached)

Public Comments – Comments were limited to 3 minutes as there were approximately 60 individuals in attendance. Following are some of the comments

- Question #3 was found to be confusing by a number of survey participants. Suggestions were made to consolidate some points, reword choices, or eliminate the data altogether from that question.
- Question was raised regarding the statistical significance of the survey in light of not everyone getting the post cards. Survey was mailed to 913 island residences. Issues were found with addresses missed on the mailing list, postcards not being forwarded to winter addresses, etc. Mailing list composition will be addressed on any future surveys.
- Question was raised on repair timetable for ferry boats. David Bryson responded that all three boats were now serviceable and that there was only a one week period in which there was only 1 boat.
- Question was raised as to why the survey was limited to island residents. Bain explained that HITA was formed to service the residents living in District 4, which only encompasses the island.
- Question was raised why our taxes do not cover a full time police and fire activity on the island. Artie Bryson addressed this question. HITA is only involved in evaluating systems to provide safe and reliable transportation to Harsens Island. Other issues/concerns should be addressed to the Clay Township Office.
- A volunteer offered to assist HITA in establishing a website.
- Question was raised regarding inspection requirements on the ferries. Dave Bryson addressed.
- Question was raised as to whether HITA was unfairly singling out the ferry and should not be mentioning it in surveys. Moving forward we will accept suggestions from residents in determining survey questions.
- Comments were made thanking HITA for the work they have done so far.
- Question was raised if HITA is allowed to accept donations.

Next steps – Board agreed on the following steps:

- Donations – Baldwin to investigate whether or not HITA is allowed to accept donations from private individuals

- Detroit Bridge Company – Baldwin & Bain will meet with the Detroit Bridge Company to discuss next steps. Detroit Bridge Co has expressed an interest in attending the next meeting and making a presentation. Timeframe for the next meeting will be determined and communicated.
- Governmental interaction – Baldwin & Bain will initiate meetings with both state legislators and the Blue Water Transit Authority. HITA needs to be added to the list of Transportation Authorities in order to have access to funding. Baldwin requested that she or another committee member accompany Bain when meeting with external groups. She further requested that all committee members meet with another committee member when discussing HITA business.
- Web Page – Tornow will investigate the feasibility and cost of establishing and maintaining a HITA website.

Motion to adjourn by Baldwin at 1:43PM, seconded by Tornow