

September 12, 2015

Administration:

Volunteers: Thanks to Ted Jensen for stripping the sport court for Pickleball and removing limbs, Karl for his offer to pick up branches and road debris, and to Mike Shettlesworth and the Gages for their daily help with community building trash and white boards.

Community Building Security: Thanks to Gary Wanzong's efforts, we now have CCTV security cameras at the building, monitoring the exterior and interior. Hopefully this will discourage folks from depositing unwanted items behind the building, breaking the glass in the defibrillator box, and other antisocial activity.

Burn ban sign: Once again a souvenir seeker has removed an HMC sign. If found, please return it. The outdoor burn ban remains in effect until the end of ramp painting.

Employee Health Care Plan Renewal: HMC provides 100% premium payment for five employees receiving health care benefits. As of October 1, the cost of the plan will increase by 9.7%, or from \$46,601.40 annually, to \$51,121.20. If covered employees participate in a health assessment, the amount of increase would be reduced to 2.5% for this first year. Dental insurance is also 100% paid for the employee, and premiums jumped 9% this year.

Water Operations:

The "water maintenance trailer" is complete and awaiting fire hoses. Thanks to Jack Wells for the donation of a trailer and tool box, and to Mike Graham and Charles Smith for their great work in painting the trailer and building the bed. This is truly a volunteer effort, and when training is available, it will be announced via email. The project was financially supported by donations made to the Herron Island Boosters. Our insurance broker has advised us that a "volunteer fire company" not under the auspices of Fire District 16 will not be covered for liability.

A Member recently damaged an HMC water meter by digging within two feet of the meter and attaching a hose. This is prohibited by the Herron island Water Operating Rules, which is published on the website. Repairs, and a penalty, will be charged to the Member for damage to a meter. Call 811 before you dig! And remember, the water meters are HMC owned property.

HMC Water continues to monitor meter readings for possible leaks, and to alert Members so that they can repair these before billing for usage begins in November, including usage for October only. Subsequent quarterly billings will include the preceding three months usage, as well as base fee and USDA loan payment for those members participated in the USDA loan. Usage and rates will be reviewed annually, and any changes made through the budget process.

Timbers removed from the island side ramps will be stored at the pump station for future use. The timbers will be placed at the appropriate distance from the well heads, in the far corner of the pump station property, as required by regulation.

Water Committee Report: The Committee is asking that the Board approve charging Members for meter box replacement when the meter box is damaged or destroyed. This is happening when construction occurs, or when the box is hit by a lawn mower or other object. The Water Committee is looking for members. This is a very active committee, reviewing water operations, projects, usage, rates and other matters.

Fire Department Liaison: As noted in a group email, the fire department has contracted for the use of a surplus fireboat from Anderson Island, and will tie it up at Joemma State Park for quick response to the island. The outermost dock has been posted with a request to keep that area free for emergency response. Boats tied up in that area will be moved and/or owners contacted.

Land Use: Damage caused by illegally excavating HMC property has been repaired, at 310 East Herron. A call to 811 might have prevented this incident and all the legal and technical expense it entailed for the parties.

Emergency Preparedness:

Parks: Committee Report.

Small boat dock removal is set for Saturday, October 10, unless the ramp painting hasn't been finished. If needed, removal will be set back to October 24. Watch the Beachcomber or the website for more information.

Thanks to Ted Jensen, the sport court has been striped for pickleball, and the net and equipment are in the Community Building. Did you know that pickleball was invented by former U.S. Representative Joel Pritchard, of Bainbridge Island? Let the games begin!

Roads: Committee Report. The Committee will attempt to repair the large culvert at East Herron and Maple by sleeving rather than replacing the culvert. Another culvert repair will be done near 1430 West Herron. The retaining wall at the corner of Maple and Yew is failing, and has been marked with traffic cones. The Committee will work on a repair plan for this spot.

Rules: Complaint 2015-01 has been heard by the Rules Committee, and a decision rendered. The Complainant has filed an appeal to the Board.

Herron Island Ferry:

Ferry Ramp Painting: Work has begun. There may be exceptions to the published schedule, and we will try to use whiteboards, the website and email to get the word out. Also, the small boat docks will be in and usable, but the outermost dock will be reserved for emergency access by the fire department. The painter will be storing a small skiff overnight, and will need space on the dock, as well. Staging areas for materials are yet to be determined on the island; on the mainland the contractor will use the beachside area closest to the dock.

Vehicle parking area will include the beach side lane of Isted Road, with one lane left open for vehicle movement. The County has given permission to use the road for parking. There is also parking available along Isted Road, to the north of Herron Road, along the public easement, which has recently been cleared or driftwood placed there by mainland residents.

Dolphin Replacement Project: The Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) has been approved, and the County has granted a Shorelines Exemption. No word has been received as to when test piles will be driven. Sixteen probes will be made, two at each existing dolphin location. The pile probe will consist of a 24-inch diameter, 80-foot-long (minimum) steel pipe pile. A vibratory hammer will be used to advance and extract the probe.

Other:

We continue to recruit for standby captain candidates. Currently we have two qualified standby captains, both of whom have other jobs that affect their availability.

Technology: No report.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 18 delinquencies, 8 of which are with the attorney for collections, and two of which are making installment payments. Delinquency rate of 4.7%. Last year at this time we had 12 delinquencies with 7 at collections. Currently, HMC has 383 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.