

HMC Newsletter January/February 2020



President's Message

Happy New Year! It seems almost impossible to me it's 2020, but here we are. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your families and friends. Let's try and make the coming year a great one for Herron Island.

Remember last winter snowstorm? As I write this, the first blast of snow this season is upon us. Be prepared – turn off your water when you are gone, wrap exposed pipes, and prepare your boat covers, sheds and fragile plants for snow. Most importantly, keep in touch with your neighbors. Reach out to your neighbors if you need assistance and to see if they need something.

The goal of our ferry and its crew is to get you on and off the island safely. We want our crew to feel safe and to know that they are appreciated for their work for us all. As a reminder, our crew have the final say in all aspects of ferry operations. If you are unclear about ferry procedures, please review the policies and rules which can be found on the HMC Website. I am sorry to report we have recently experienced incidents where members have been disrespectful to our ferry crew. Although most all members treat our crew with the respect they deserve, even a few incidents of disrespect are disappointing. Being verbally abusive to our crew is unproductive and unsafe and it will not be tolerated. If you have a concern, please contact the office.

Speaking of issues on our ferry, I can't believe I need to write this, but please don't drive onto the ferry if you are intoxicated or impaired. Yes, this happened recently. Obviously, this is a violation of multiple local, state, federal and maritime laws. This is a huge safety issue for the crew, ferry passengers, and other drivers on the roads. The Captain has the discretion to call the Sheriff if a driver is suspected to be under the influence.

We had a difficult month of ferry maintenance in December, with two ferry outages, both due to ramp motor failure. There have been multiple motor failures over the last year and one half. The Board is concerned about the frequency of issues with the ramp motors. It is understood that mechanical components break down, particularly in our challenging marine environment. However, we need to do better to ensure these problems are minimized. We will be looking closely to determine if we need to change our procedures and supplies. Everyone benefits from dependable ferry service.

Your cooperation in how we stage in the ferry line on the mainland is appreciated. As reported before, our mainland neighbors have complained to Pierce County about our lining up on Herron Road. We will be working with the County on a long-term solution. In the meantime, please pull up as close as possible to the car in front of you. Do not congregate on the road. We need to show the County we are being respectful of our mainland neighbors.

January is when we start the process of developing our budget for the next fiscal year. Creating the budget requires many hours of work by the Finance Committee. I would like to thank them for taking on this important task. The Board pledges to have a draft of the budget completed with adequate time for you to review it and ask questions. We want to ensure you are fully informed about how much your assessment will be and how the money will be spent.

Finally, here are a couple of long-term announcements. The docks will be placed in the water on Saturday, April 11. We need volunteers the morning of April 11. Alan DeGood has agreed to return as coordinator of the small boat docks project. We also need volunteers to help prepare in advance of putting the small boat docs in. See the article in this Beachcomber for details.

(Continued on Page 2)

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

This is the year for our ferry, the Charlie Wells, to go into drydock for repairs and inspections. We do not yet have a set date, but we are anticipating drydock will be the last two weeks of September. We'll let you know as soon as the exact dates have been determined.

I want to end this message on a positive note by thanking those who make Herron Island such a special place. Thank you to our dedicated ferry crew who do an outstanding job getting us on and off the island. Thank you to our capable Island Manager and office staff who keep HMC going.

Thank you to all the volunteers - we need you and value your commitment. Thank you to those who attend the Board meetings and Committee meetings. Your involvement and participation are appreciated. And last but certainly not least, thank you, to you! You have made Herron Island part of your personal community. All of our lives are enriched by community.

Let's make 2020 a fantastic year!

Thank you,

Reed West, Your HMC President

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No Beachcomber in February



The Beachcomber is published nine times per year. There are no issues in October, December, or February. HMC Beachcomber January/February 2020

Important Phone Numbers

Island Manager

Jane Wooster (253) 884-9350

HMC Board of Directors

Reed West, President	(253) 884-9350
Chet Latimer, Vice-President	(253) 884-9350
Ferd Reichlin, Treasurer	(253) 884-9350
Merry Kogut, Secretary	(253) 884-9350
Kathy Deuster, Member-at-Large	(253) 884-9350

Additional Contacts

Additional Contacts	
Frank Harrison, Water Repair	(253) 884-9350
Frank Harrison, Water Committee	(253) 884-9350
Gary Wanzong, Finance Committee	(253) 884-9350
Dan Marten, Roads Committee	(253) 884-9350
Beth Owen, Rules Committee	(253) 884-9350
Dale Miller, Parks Committee	(253) 884-9350
Ken Higgins, Emergency Preparedness	(253) 884-9350
Alan DeGood, Small Boat Docks	(253) 884-9350
Carolyn Snyder, Office Manager	(253) 884-9350
Merry Kogut, HMC Calendar	(253) 884-8484
Ken Freeman, Beachcomber/Webmaster	(231) 544-2456

Herron Island Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The office is CLOSED Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, and after 2:00 PM on Fridays before Board meetings.

Office Phone: (253) 884-9350 Office Fax: (253) 884-5047

Website: http://www.herronisland.org

Office email: Office@herronisland.org

HMC Water email: HMCWater@herronsland.org Manager email: HMCManager@herronisland.org Beachcomber email: beachcomber@herronisland.org

Parks email: HMCParks@herronisland.org Roads email: HMCRoads@herronisland.org

Member Input to Board: MemberInput@herronisland.org

Emergency 911
Ferry Cell phone (253) 691-1457

(Cell phone to be used for scheduling heavy loads, big vehicles or having something in tow, and for information regarding ferry services.)

Ferry Business

- Call ahead if you are planning to use the ferry for a trailer, boat, or large vehicle!
- Only those guests with valid passes will be allowed on the ferry.
- Plan your arrival at the dock at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time of departure.
- Walks-ons are not to be on the dock or ramp when cars are being loaded. Watch crew for permission to board.
- Only service and delivery people may charge fares.

WE HAVE EXPERIENCED GUESTS AND SERVICE PEOPLE EXPECTING TO COME OVER TO THE ISLAND WITHOUT GUEST PASSES. THIS VIOLATES THE ACCESS POLICY THAT WAS PUT IN PLACE FOR ALL OF OUR SECURITY. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR GUEST HAS A VALID GUEST PASS SIGNED BY YOU TO ENSURE THEY ARE ABLE TO RIDE THE FERRY. BLANK GUEST PASSES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS AT THE OFFICE, BY MAIL, AND ON THE FERRY.

Nondiscrimination Statement

If you wish to file a Civil Rights complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint form, found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html

or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Director, Office of Adjudication 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Or fax to (202) 690-7442 or email to

program.intake@usda.gov.

Beachcomber news items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday after the monthly Board meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Items MUST be emailed in electronic format to beachcomber@herronisland.org. Include your name and phone number in case any questions arise. Paid advertisements are to be arranged with the HMC office PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

Island Manager Report January 11, 2020

Administration:

- HMC's audit will begin in January 2020
- Note, at times, due to high winds and tides, the ferry captains may decide to load fewer cars to allow for safer passage on the ferry. They will then shuttle as needed.

Driving on the ferry or on the island while under the influence of alcohol or other substances:

Please be aware that the ferry crew has reported a few instances of members driving
while under the influence over the past few months. Herron Island, while private, is
still subject to rules of the road, and USCG regulations, under federal, state and local
law. At the Captain's discretion, the Sheriff may be called if a driver is suspected to be
under the influence.

Thank you!

Correction, Alan DeGood has assured me he will return for small docks next year. Alan has rented a lift and plans on placing the small docks in the water on Saturday, April 11, 2020, which is the Saturday with the highest tide early in the morning during March and April. More to follow in the weeks prior to installation regarding work party dates for painting and repairing the docks. Thank you, Alan.

Departments/Committees

- Maintenance: Gary Wanzong No report
- Parks: Dale Miller No report
- Policies: Mike Gage No report
- <u>Roads</u>: Dan Marten Jane to report
 Dan Marten called in a report to me. He thanks all who worked on the culvert flooding
 and clean out, Andy Anderson, Bob Clark and Jack Wells.
- <u>Emergency Preparedness:</u> Ken Higgins No report
- <u>Water</u>: Frank Harrison No report this month
 Charles Smith is out on leave, please contact Jane Wooster in the office, 253-884-9350 for immediate needs
- Rules: One hearing will held this month

Legal Liaison: There are 30 delinquencies; 10 with our attorney for action.



Spring is coming... It will soon be time to paint,

repair and install the Boat Docks....

Workday 1: Repair and Painting

When: Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 a.m..

Where: North Beach

Potluck style lunch....for all participants

at 11:30 a.m.

Workday 2: Installation of the Boat Docks

When: Saturday, April 11th at 8:00 a.m..

Where: North Beach

Potluck style brunch....for all participants at 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Boosters will be providing drinks and table service, other volunteers are invited to help by preparing a potluck dish either day!

All are welcome and encouraged to help

Dress warm, bring your gloves and community spirit. Join the activities.

Herron Island Boosters' Potluck



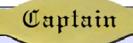
Valentines themed food.

Come and bring your favorite food to share and join us all for a fun social hour. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This will be just a social event. The next business meeting will be in March.

The Board will be sharing brief biographies of HMC staff with HMC Members. This is the fourth in the new series.

Joe LaPoint



Weekend Captain

Our weekend Captain, Joe LaPoint, has worked on the water since 1994, working from cook to Captain and most every job in-between. He's enjoyed working in Alaska, on the Columbia River, the Sea of Cortez, and, of course, Herron Island! Before water-world, Joe's work included ice cream truck driver, vacuum demonstrator, and janitor.

In his time off, Joe enjoys collecting place-name spoons, drinking coffee, and reading adventure novels. He's also working on a dating app for the developmentally challenged, and may be seen tending his spot in the community garden.

Joe has been observed doing many Herron Island volunteer jobs around the Island, such as the Herron Ferry Crew's commitment to clean part of Herron Road and writing the "Captain's Corner" for the Beachcomber. Recently, Joe was spotted cleaning the windows in the island side shed!

Be sure to say hi to Joe next time you see him on the ferry and thank him for his service and volunteer work!

Welcome, New Islanders!

HMC welcomes new Members to Herron Island:

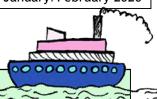
- Jenny & David Weber
- David & Paris Brereton
- Ronald & Jeannette Folk
- Tyler & Haley Pendergraft



Are You on the List?



HMC now has 406 Member email addresses on the notification list. If you want to get notice of the online Beachcomber, or get the latest on windstorms, power outages, water line breakages, or other news, please send an email to office@herronisland.org and request that your email address be added. To be used for HMC purposes only.



A REMINDER ABOUT FERRY ACCESS POLICY

The <u>Ferry Access Policy</u> is posted on the HMC Website. The portion of the policy related to departure reads as follows:

"The ferry crew may begin boarding vehicles/passengers ten minutes prior to the scheduled departure time, or earlier if a shuttle run is anticipated. Vehicles/passengers must arrive no later than five minutes before the scheduled departure time to ensure a place either on the current ferry run or shuttle that may be required for those arriving before the cutoff time."

We all benefit by having a published ferry schedule. It is important that our ferry follows this schedule and leaves on time. Our ferry crew works hard to transport members on and off Herron Island.

To ensure the ferry runs on schedule, we require members and our guests to arrive a minimum of five minutes before the scheduled departure time. This allows the crew to safely prepare the boat for transport and pull away from the dock on time. If the ferry is full, the boat may leave early and may shuttle.

The crew tries their best to accommodate members, but they are directed to leave on time. This means a late arriving member will be left behind. You are encouraged to arrive a minimum of 10 minutes early.

Board Member Email Addresses

HMCReedWest@herronisland.org

HMCChetLatimer@herronisland.org

HMCFerdReichlin@herronisland.org

HMCMerryKogut@herronisland.org

HMCKathyDeuster@herronisland.org

Please use these email addresses for all future communications to Board Members. They can be accessed on our website (herronisland.org) under the HMC Board tab.

Committee Email Addresses

HMCRules@herronisland.org

HMCRoads@herronisland.org

HMCEmergPrep@herronisland.org



Is your Auto Decal Current?



With the first half assessment billed and effective as of October 1st everyone should have their new auto decal affixed to the lower driver's side corner on the windshield of their car. These decals are required by the Ferry Access Policy to ensure that only members in good standing are able to access the ferry. Each decal has an expiration date and your vehicle's license number which must match the plate on your car. Only vehicles owned and registered in the name of the member or authorized renter can receive an auto decal. Swapping of decals or sharing with non-members is not permitted.

NOTE: If you have an expired decal on your vehicle and wish to board the ferry, (and the deckhand's IPad records shows you to be a member in good standing), you will be permitted to board but you will be charged the guest rate until the current decal is affixed. We realize that this may be an inconvenience for some, but please don't take it out on the ferry crew. They are just doing their job at the instructions of the HMC Board. It is in everyone's best interest that the Ferry Access Policy be followed. Please do your part and make sure your decal is current before you arrive at the ferry dock.

The complete Ferry Access Policy can be found on the front page of the HMC website.

Members Hiring Realtors on Herron Island



Any member hiring a realtor to sell their property must be aware of the risk of placing a real estate sign anywhere near a water meter. See Item 6 of the HMC Real Estate Policy on the website. When placing signage for properties that are for sale, it is very important to be aware of where there may be underground utilities. During the recent ditch clearing, we noted two incidences where realtors have placed signage within inches of water and electrical lines. For example, if a water line is damaged, it would require turning the water off at the water main and impacting several properties until the damage has been addressed. If a significant repair is needed this may mean that people will not have water service for days. The best choice would be to call 811 (utility locators) before you dig. Members will be held liable for any damage to HMC water meters or surrounding pipe.

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP BILLINGS

Note: Bills that are not received or postmarked by the 25th of the month they are due are late and subject to a late fee.

General Assessments: Assessments for the general fund are billed semi-annually.

1st

half: Billed and Due October 1

half: Billed and Due April 1

Water Assessments: Assessments for water-related services are billed quarterly.

quarter: Billed and Due November 1

3rd

quarter: Billed and Due February 1

guarter: Billed and Due May 1

4th

quarter: Billed and Due August 1

<u>Special Assessments</u>: These are billed and due on the first day of the month as designated by the Board of Directors.

<u>Miscellaneous Billings</u>: These are other items billed to your Member account, such as charged Ferry fees for contractors. They are billed and due on the first day of the month following the month in



Got Junk? Please don't leave it on the roadside



In recent months we have been seeing more and more discarded items left on the roadside with "Free" signs. Some unwanted items have even been left on other members' properties! Members are reminded that this is a Rules violation, not to mention unsightly. Everything from trailers, tables, chairs, televisions, barbecues and old bathtubs are being left on the road. HMC Rules Section E8 reads in part:

"Dumping of personal items is prohibited in all Common areas" (Class B). This prohibition also applies to leaving items with a "free" sign on them." (E8)"

Please dispose of your unwanted items properly. Thank you.

			SUIV	IMER FER	RY SCHED	ULE - APP	IL I IHKC	JUGH SEP	I EIVIBER	30			
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
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								8:30	9:00				

^{***} ferry will not operate during these times to allow for mandatory crew breaks. This includes shuttle runs.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES - SUMMER

Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day run on the Sunday schedule.

			WII	NTER FERF	RY SCHED	ULE - OCT	OBER 1 TI	HROUGH	MARCH 3	1			
MONDAY TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY			
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				265	HOLIDA	Y SCHED	JLES - WII	NTER		20 20	/ Sr		20
Thank	anksgiving 8:30am - 9:00am 11:30am - noon 6:30pm - 7:00pm		- 7:00pm			1 1	2						
Christn	nas Day	8:30am	- 9:00am			6:30pm	- 7:00pm						
New Ye	ars Day	8:30am	- 9:00am	11:30ar	n - noon	6:30pm	- 7:00pm						

NOTE: Check for low tide ferry cancellations. They are posted on the HMC website.

Reservations must be made with the ferry when towing or a vehicle exceeds 25 feet prior to arrival.

Ferry Cell Phone: 253-691-1457. Users are asked to arrive at least ten minutes before the scheduled departure time.

Ferry Rates										
Ferry User Fees	Member	Guest								
Vehicle (up through 20') & Driver	\$8.00	\$20.00								
Passengers & Walk-Ons										
Age 12 and Over	\$3.00	\$3.00								
Age 5 - 11	\$1.00	\$1.00								
Under Age 5	Free	Free								
Vehicle Length Fares										
21' through 30'	\$16.00	\$32.00								
31' through 40'	\$24.00	\$48.00								
41' through 50'	\$32.00	\$64.00								
51' through 60"	\$40.00	\$80.00								
Special Runs	\$175.00	\$175.00								
911 Medical Runs off the Island	Free	Free								

Basic Ferry Safety Rules

Smoking is not permitted.

Marijuana is not permitted.

Open alcoholic beverages are prohibited (RCW 46.61.519)

Passengers must remain behind the safety lines in place across each end of the ferry.

Passengers must remain in vehicles or passenger cabin while ferry is loading/unloading vehicles.

Passengers under the age of 13 must be under adult supervision at all times. Passengers ages 13-17 who are unaccompanied by an adult must remain in the cabin until a crewmember tells them they may leave.

Propane tanks must be shut off and sealed prior to boarding.

Gasoline is allowed in CG/UL-approved portable containers no more than six (6) gallons in size with no signs of deterioration that could affect sits integrity. Containers must be properly secured for transit and cannot exceed a total volume of twelve (12) gallons on any one trip.

Access Policy Main Points

Member vehicles must have a valid HMC Sticker. (If sicker is invalid guest rates apply.)

Guests must provide a completed guest pass to the deckhand/purser, filled out and signed by a Member, to be admitted onto the ferry.

Roundtrip payment is required on the mainland side by cash or check.

Charges to Members can only be authorized for utility, service or delivery services.

A reservation must be made in advance and confirmed by the ferry Captain to transport any combination (in-tow) of any length and/or single vehicles longer that 25 feet.

Maximum gross weight is 40,000 pds.

Maximum vehicle length is 60 feet.

Loading/Unloading Procedures

Speed limit on the ramps and boat is 5 MPH.

Follow all directions given by crew.

Set parking break and turn off engine when loaded.

Do not start engine until directed by the crew.

Turn off all vehicle lights while on the ferry, ramp or pier during loading and/or unloading.

To load vehicles proceed to the concrete pier when light turns green. Proceed one vehicle at a time down the wooden ramp and wait at bottom until directed by crew to drive onto the ferry. Follow instructions of crew where and when to park.

To exit the ferry restart your engine and release parking break only when directed by crew. Exit ferry as directed by crew.

Foot passengers may not board when light is green. Passengers are to remain in cabin when ferry is docking or at dock.

Boarding/Shuttling

Ferry crew may begin boarding 10 minutes prior to scheduled departure.

Vehicles/passengers must arrive no later than five minutes before the scheduled departure time to ensure a place either on the current run or a shuttle.

Vehicles/passengers arriving after the five minute cutoff time are not assured a place either on the current run or shuttle.

If additional vehicles/passengers arrive after the cutoff and prior to the final shuttle departure they will only be accommodated as space permits on the shuttle. Any remaining vehicles must wait until the next scheduled run.

The ferry may not make shuttle runs if the ferry crew reach legal work hour limits. Some shuttles may not be made to assure the ferry crew gets required breaks.

Holiday Restrictions

Combinations (in-tow) of any length and/or single vehicles longer than 25 feet will not be transported after noon, the Thursday before Memorial and Labor Day holiday weekends.

Restriction dates will be posted for the Independence Day holiday.

Ferry Cell Phone

253-691-1457

Call the ferry to schedule heavy loads, when towing vehicles and any vehicle longer than 25 feet. Confirmed reservation is required by the ferry Captain prior to loading.

Member Responsibility

Members are responsible for their guests actions at all times and to assure a completely filled out guest pass is issued to their guest prior to the guest arriving at the ferry.



Herron Island Emergency Preparedness

This time of year remember to check your flashlight/lanterns, portable radio and cellphone charging sources, battery packs, car charging cable. (your car is a great source to recharge devices).

Long-term storage of batteries should NOT be left installed in devices. If you do not use them regularly, they could corrode and cause damage as some things have what are called parasite drains.

When stored at room temperature (i.e. 70°F/ 21°C), cylindrical alkaline batteries have a shelf life of 5 to 10 years and cylindrical carbon zinc 3 to 5 years. Lithium Cylindrical types can be stored from 10 to 15 years. Prolonged storage at elevated temperatures will shorten storage life.

Everyone should own at least one emergency radio and it should be a hand crank radio. The hand crank radio is most reliable. Most come with built in flashlights and charges.

Below is a link to check out 7 of the top-rated radios.

https://www.skilledsurvival.com/hand-crank-radio/

Power bank / solar chargers are a great addition to your emergency kit.

Below is a link to check out 8 of the top-rated chargers.

https://www.gearhungry.com/best-solar-chargers/

It also is a good time to check and restock your home first aid kit.

They are easy to put together or purchase readymade.

Home kit contents: A household first aid kit should include these 15items.

- 1. Adhesive tape
- 2. Anesthetic spray (<u>Bactine</u>) or lotion (<u>Calamine</u>, Campho-Phenique) for itching rashes and <u>insect bites</u>
- 3. 4" x 4" sterile gauze pads for covering and cleaning <u>wounds</u>, as a soft eye patch
- 4. 2", 3", and 4" Ace bandages for wrapping sprained or strained joints, for wrapping gauze on to wounds, for wrapping on splints
- 5. Adhesive bandages (all sizes)
- 6. <u>Diphenhydramine</u> (Benadryl) oral antihistamine for allergic reactions, itching rashes. Avoid topical antihistamine creams because they may worsen the <u>rash</u> in some people.
- 7. Exam gloves for infection protection, and can be made into ice packs if filled with water and frozen
- 8. Polysporin antibiotic cream to apply to simple wounds
- 9. Nonadhesive pads (Telfa) for covering wounds and burns
- 10.Pocket mask for CPR
- 11.Resealable oven bag as a container for contaminated articles, can become an ice pack
- 12.Safety pins (large and small) for splinter removal and for securing triangular bandage sling
- 13.Scissors
- 14. Triangular bandage as a sling, towel, tourniquet
- 15.Tweezers for splinter or stinger or tick removal

Frequently Asked Questions about the HMC Rules

Beth Owen, Rules Committee chair



Who made the Herron Island rules?

The members of Herron Island have developed the rules of Herron Island, using the HMC Bylaws as their guide. From time to time, these rules may be amended or new rules proposed. This process can be initiated by either the HMC board or by Herron Island members and requires ratification by either the HMC board or by the HMC membership (depending on the circumstances.)

Where can I find a copy of the Herron Island rules?

The HMC Rules, as well as the HMC Bylaws, can be found on the Herron Island website, herronisland.org, under the "Island Rules" tab on the left side of the page.

Who is the Rules Committee and what is their responsibility?

The Rules Committee consists of at least three Herron Island members in good standing and the committee members vary from time to time. Committee members have been approved by the HMC board.

They are responsible for evaluating alleged HMC Rules violations and, first, seeing if there is merit in the complaint. If the complaint has merit, they will attempt to see if some sort of reasonable agreement between the parties can be worked out. If that fails, they may decide to levy a fine(s) as prescribed by the HMC Rules.

What can I do if I have a complaint about someone that I believe is violating the Herron Island rules?

The first step is to try talking with the person that you have a complaint with – oftentimes a neighborly chat is all that is needed to get the issue cleared up. Most of your neighbors are good people who may not even realize that they are causing a problem. If you haven't at least tried to talk to them, then it's possible that the Rules Committee will not accept your complaint.

If you have tried talking and have gotten nowhere, then the next step is to fill out an official HMC complaint form (found under "Documents" tab, then "Corporate Governing Documents.") Be sure to document your attempts to resolve the issue when you fill out this form.

What happens if I just send an email to the Rules Committee about a complaint I have?

Nothing will happen unless you fill out an official HMC Complaint form.

Sometimes the Rules Committee gets emails from folks who complain about someone else and ask the Rules Committee to talk to that person and warn them to stop that behavior. We get email from people who "don't want to have a hearing" but "just want the problem fixed."

Please be aware that the Rules Committee is not able to take any action at all without a formal hearing, which can only be initiated with an official HMC Complaint form.

If you do not want to have a hearing, then do not file a complaint.

What can I expect if I file an official complaint?

Once you have filled out an HMC Complaint form, the Rules Committee will set up an official hearing. You will be expected to attend this hearing, along with the person who you are complaining about.

The Rules hearing is a structured but informal process where both sides of the complaint are given time to "tell their story." The Rules Committee is likely to ask further questions if anything needs to be clarified. All participants are expected to be civil during the hearing. The hearings are open to Herron Island members but they are not allowed to participate in the process.

After the hearing, the Rules Committee will issue their decision and decide if a fine is indicated.

What happens if I receive a Complaint about me?

If you receive an HMC Complaint, it will include a Response Form for you to fill out. This is an opportunity for you to state your side of the events in writing prior to the hearing, which can be helpful in determining the need for holding a hearing.

If you feel the complaint against you is valid and you want to avoid a hearing altogether, the Response Form is a way to let the Rules Committee know that you want work out a solution. This will mean signing an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance. When you sign the Assurance of Voluntary Compliance form, you are agreeing that you will take steps to prevent the problem(s) from occurring in the future.

Can I appeal a Rules Committee decision?

Yes, either party may appeal a Rules Committee decision to the HMC Board.

What are the most common complaints that are received?

The two most frequent complaints in the past five years or so are about excessive noise and dog issues.

You can help by being aware of how the noise you generate (parties, outdoor speakers, etc) affects your neighbors, especially if it's on a regular basis. Dogs, even sweet dogs, need to be leashed when off your property and there should not be any opportunity for them to escape from your property through gates that are left open. Dogs should not be left unattended outdoors at all.

There have also been some complaints recently about motorbikes and ATVs that have been speeding or doing donuts on the island roads. Remember that all motorized vehicles are subject to the 15 mph speed limit as well as required to follow state driving laws. Motorbikes and ATVs that do donuts on Herron Island roads are not only breaking our rules, they can easily damage our road surfaces leading to costly repairs. If you want to play with your motor bike or ATV, please take them off the island to areas that are designed for that purpose.

Herron Island rules are just common sense rules that ask you to be respectful of your neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation!

Herron Island Properties For Sale:

415 West Herron Blvd NW: (MLS#1534640): Two story home with 3 beds/1.75 baths. Open plan living room with vaulted ceiling. Set back off the road with a filtered view of the water! \$258,900

18 Herron Island Properties SOLD in 2019!

Full information/images on ALL properties for sale (All brokerages) at:

www.DiscoverHerronIsland.com

Karen Dorans, Island Resident Broker

Call/Text: 253.219.4076 Email: Karen@HerronIsland.com

Karen is a full time resident; call her anytime to view any listed property or to discuss selling your island home!

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