

Island Manager Report
June 13, 2015

Administration:

Volunteers: Betty & Larry Eccles at the Community Garden, Karl Schafer, thistle patrol, Dan Morgan and other dust truck drivers. All the Memorial Day volunteers too. Pat Zazzo and Leslie Sanderson did a great job on “tansy patrol” and received praise from the inspector for the condition of HMC roadway easements. Mike & Judy Gage are doing a great job with the white board notices; and thanks to Mike Shettlesworth for moving the fire engine when we need him, for seeing that the trash cans get taken out weekly.

Flag Policy at North Beach: Mike Shettlesworth to take responsibility for flying the flags of the military services throughout the year, changing them monthly. The large U.S. flag is now illuminated and will be flown all year. No other flags are authorized to be flown at North Beach. Thanks to those who have volunteered previously to do “flag duty”, and to John Farris for installing the light.

Island Rules vs. Island Manager FYI: On occasion, someone will come into the office and ask why the Island Manager hasn’t “done something” about an apparent rules violation, often involving noise, dogs or speeding. With rare exception, these are Member to Member issues and should be resolved between Members, or through the Rules Committee. The Island Manager may file a Rules complaint, when directed by the Board to do so, or if the Manager is personally the object of a rules violation.

Water Operations:

Members who need service on their side of the HMC meter need to hire a contractor to do the work. HMC will not perform work on private property, except in case of emergency. If such an emergency occurs, the Member will be charged for the service at the approved HMC rate.

There were only six Members whose names appeared on both the April and May leak list, and they have all been contacted.

Water Committee Report: The committee met Thursday, June 11, at Janet Podell’s to discuss Water Use Efficiency report due July 1; Consumer Confidence Report – to be distributed with another member mailing;

Fire Department Liaison: Fire Chief Guy Allen will attend the July 11 meeting to address the Board and Members regarding an upcoming fire department levy election. This is an informal presentation and Chief Allen will be available for questions.

The fire department will be painting each hydrant on the island. The color scheme indicates the fire flow (hydrant water pressure). This is part of a district wide effort to identify and properly color all hydrants.

Land Use: A Member has requested use of HMC roadway easement to install a fence to prevent traffic accidents on a steep slope. Charles Smith will mark the water line and Jack Wells will mark the power. The Members will execute a license agreement with HMC giving them the right to use the property while HMC retains ownership.

Another Member has been given permission to put up signs on HMC roadway easements for an art sale over the July 4 weekend. Signs will be posted for approximately one week, and promptly removed.

Emergency Preparedness: Mike Shettlesworth has done some research regarding security on the mainland while ramps are painted, including installation of motion sensor lights. We need a volunteer or two to take on this responsibility. Andy Anderson has offered to help with the installation of posts on which to mount the motion sensor lights. Lights need to be researched, purchased and installed.

Parks: Committee Report.

Please contact Tracy Anspach at 380-8261 if you’d like to help with planning and organizing parks improvements and maintenance. Volunteerism saves \$\$\$ and builds community.

Please do not remove driftwood from the beaches at North Beach or South Beach. These help reduce erosion along the beachfront and are part of the natural environment.

The old mower has been sold for \$326. We received four bids.

Roads: Committee Report. Following some additional work on the roads, the remaining gravel will be moved to the pump station for storage. The culvert at 1430 North Beach Road needs to be replaced. Supplies are on hand and the work will be done soon.

A second culvert needs to be replaced at the driveway into the pump station. This work will be done after the cost is determined. A large rusted culvert at the end of Single Lane Road and Maple needs replacing during the summer, possibly while the ramps are being painted and there is less traffic. Additional projects include drainage, removal of the dirt pile opposite the pump station.

Rules: No outstanding complaints.

Herron Island Ferry:

Low Tide Cancellations: Nineteen runs have been added to replace some of the 28 runs and shuttles affected by low tides in May, June, July and August.

July 4 Weekend: From 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 2 through Sunday, July 5, no “combinations” (in-tow) vehicles of any length and/or single vehicles longer than 25 feet will be transported. There will be no noon crossing on July 2, and no 2:30-3 p.m. ferry run on Sunday, July 5. Plan for a longer weekend with fewer ferry runs and avoid the traffic!

Ferry Ramp Painting: Three bids were received on May 22, and were opened at the office of the engineers. The bid amounts were \$579,503; \$329,040; and \$277,000. The low bidder was Massana Construction, the company which completed the water system replacement project. The estimated time to complete the project was 35 days. The contractor will begin work **Wednesday, September 9**. The ferry may not be available to vehicle traffic for approximately 30 days, although foot traffic will be allowed in the mornings and afternoons. The specific schedule needs to be completed.

If motion sensor lights can be installed, they will provide improved security lighting in the parking area. Volunteers are needed to assist with selecting lights, obtaining Board approval, and installing the lights prior to September.

Dolphin Replacement Project: The Board has approved the selection of PND to do this design and geotech work; however, no contract will be signed until the budget for the work has been approved.

USDA has informed us that we are eligible for a loan to finance the dolphin replacement project, as we did with the water system. This process requires considerable documentation, including interviews with commercial banks, budget development and more. We can submit a final application as soon as we have the preliminary design and geotech report. If debt financing becomes an attractive option, the question would have to be submitted to the Members for approval. The interest rate would be no greater than 3.75%. The rate fluctuates with rate adjustments by the Federal Reserve, so it could go down, as the water rate did, but this appears unlikely. We’ve been asked whether the term of the loan must be 40 years, and the answer is “no”. The term can be fewer years, with higher payments, or the loan can simply be paid off early.

Other:

We are once again advertising for standby captain candidates. Currently we have only one qualified standby captain. Our ads have brought us...a nursing instructor living in New Jersey;

The ferry crew and two standby deck hands received renewal CPR/first aid training on June 11, courtesy of Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One.

Technology: No report.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 16 delinquencies, 11 of which are with the attorney for action, and two of which are making installment payments. Delinquency rate of 4.2%. Last year at this time we had 16 delinquencies with 6 at collections. Currently, HMC has 384 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.