

Island Manager Report
April 11, 2015

Administration:

Volunteers: April is **National Volunteer Month!** Virginia Major, Kathy Deuster and Dana Gruber performed the tedious job of organizing auto decals for mailing. John Farris and Terrill Chilson prepared this year's low tide cancellations and composite ferry schedule, both of which are posted on the HMC website. Robin Kelly – thanks for researching security options for the mainland parking lot. Steve Ohlsen and Leslie Sanderson cleaned off the waiting shed on the island. Mike Shettlesworth, who takes out the trash from the community building every Monday morning and removes the Fire Engine from the building for all community events. The numerous members who assisted in placing the small boat docks back into the water. Acknowledgement also to the volunteers who serve on our committees and dedicate so much time and energy. Committee meetings are open to any member who wants to attend and assist with the island management. Without these committees, much of the work of the island wouldn't get done. Thanks to all.

Here is a sampling of yearly volunteer opportunities. Please feel free to hop on board.

- HMC Board – yes, they are volunteers!
- Planting daffodils at the top of Ferry Road
- Identifying, ordering, coordinating delivery, and installing the chain link fence at Goodpaster Park
- Tansy patrol
- Identifying dangerous HMC trees for future removal
- Taking debris off of the waiting shed roof on Ferry Hill Rd.
- Stuffing envelopes for HMC mail
- Stamping 'BALLOT' envelopes
- Preparing vehicle stickers and placing in envelopes for mailing
- Committee volunteer hours working on each committee
- Developing a program for the Water bills with graphs, etc and insuring the data inputs into Quicken Program
- Burying dead deer
- Taking wood from HMC cut trees down to the North Beach fire pit
- Coordinating the purchase, delivery, and installation of the new swings at Goodpaster Park
- Taking out and bringing in the weekly HMC trash cans
- Taking out and bringing in the fire truck in the Community Center
- Preparing the white signage boards
- Coordinating Community Garden activities and maintaining that property
- Putting the docks back in the water
- Validating ballots at each election
- Counting ballots at elections
- Road cleanup crews
- Pressure washing the waiting shed and plastic shed on Ferry Hill Rd
- Installing the sign board on the chain link fence at the ferry ramp
- Trash patrol

- Cleaning up fallen tree debris in the Nature Park and hauling that to the Purdy Dump
- Filling potholes

The last Beachcomber included a recipe for weed and tansy control that is not damaging to the natural environment.

Reserve Study: The annual reserve studies for HMC and for the Water Department have been completed and are posted on the HMC website. These reserve studies are advisory to the membership, presenting the “big picture” of long term capital expenses.

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.

Water Committee Report: The Water Committee is prepared to present to the membership the new water billing process and draft bill at 1:30 p.m.

Foremost among the list of projects to be done at the pump station is the cleaning of the exterior of the reservoir. The Committee reviewed this project and the estimated cost of \$2,276.40, and agreed to recommend the expenditure. Funds have been reserved for this purpose.

Fire Department Liaison: Nothing to report.

Land Use: Removed a realtor sign that had been nailed to an HMC tree, and returned it to the realtor in Tacoma, with advice. Just as a reminder, realtor signs may only be posted on the property for sale and not randomly around the island or attached to HMC trees.

Emergency Preparedness: Thanks to Mike Gage and Karl Schafer for their help with the community resilience survey, and to those Members who agreed to be interviewed.

Parks: Committee Report. PenLight sent out a crew in response to our request and moved all the surplus poles to the end of the Goodpaster Park parking lot. They will no longer block the installation of the fence along Maple. Some of the PenLight poles are inside the fence line and we have contacted PenLight regarding their removal. The swing set is partially installed.

We’ve heard from some Members eager to play pickleball on the sport court, which awaits lining and nets. Volunteers to help with organizing and carrying out these Parks activities are more than welcome. Please contact Tracy Anspach at 380-8261 if you’d like to help with planning and organizing parks improvements and maintenance. Volunteerism saves \$\$\$.

Roads: Committee Report.

The barge delivered 1,623 tons of gravel on Tuesday, April 7. Grading began on Wednesday and continued through Thursday. The grader removed unwanted turf that had grown along the roadways, which is being disposed of at various spots on the island. Once gravel has been distributed, the grader will return to go over the roads again.

Rules: No outstanding complaints.

Herron Island Ferry:

Ferry Ramp Painting: The bid documents for ramp painting will be ready soon. We have not yet set a date to call for bids or hold the pre-proposal meeting, but it is still early in the year. After much discussion, the date for commencement of this work has been set as **Wednesday, September 9**. This date takes advantage of the better summer weather, but follows the busy Labor Day weekend. The ferry will not be available to vehicle traffic for approximately 30 days, although foot traffic will be allowed in the mornings and afternoons. Specific schedules will be better known when bids have been received and reviewed. HMC will also attempt to make arrangements for parking lot security during the construction period.

The Board is seeking applications from anyone able to provide mainland parking lot security during the ramp work. If you know of someone who would be willing to provide security (stay alert!) from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily, please have them contact the office.

Dolphin Replacement Project: A pre-proposal meeting for interested engineering firms was conducted on Friday, March 27. Representatives from two firms attended, and both will submit proposals by the deadline of April 17. Both firms have significant experience in designing structures for the marine environment.

This past month we've spent a lot of time researching the history of the dolphins and attempting to locate any records of pile driving that would evaluate the risks associated with different dolphin designs. Actual pile driving records, or as-builts, have not been available to us, but we have at least improved our knowledge of the dolphin history, and drawings of the mainland ferry dock as far back as 1925.

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. 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 we do have the 3.75% commitment.

Other:

We are once again advertising for standby captain candidates. Currently we have only one qualified standby captain.

Recently, we attended the US Coast Guard Small Passenger Vessel Industry Day in Seattle. Primary point of discussion included preparation for annual vessel inspection, and establishment of a security zone for the U.S. Open in University Place.

Fire District #16 no longer does First Aid training, and so we are working with a private vendor to set up the crew's CPR, First Aid and AED refresher sometime in June.

Technology: No report.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 20 delinquencies, 13 of which are with the attorney for action, and two of which are making installment payments. Delinquency rate of 3.6%. One is for less than \$200. Last year at this time we had 15 delinquencies with 8 at collections. (3.9%) Currently, HMC has 384 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.