

November 14, 2015

Administration:

Volunteers: Thanks to the many who turned out for the dock removal on October 10, to Karl Schafer for office help and to Merry Kogut for updating the web site calendar.

White Boards: the white boards at the ferry docks have been missing for a couple weeks while our good volunteers who update them have been out of town. Hopefully they'll be back in service soon.

Tree Removal: Sixty-eight dead, diseased, or dangerous trees were removed during October. The trees had been identified by a volunteer crew and reviewed by the Island Manager before removal. All trees removed were on HMC roadway easement or HMC property. Many trees died this summer, stressed by the hot dry weather. Members would be well advised to review their own properties and remove dead or diseased trees. Slightly more than half the "tree" budget has been spent, reserving some for fall and winter windfalls.

Employee Health Care Plan and Arbitration: Last year the ferry crew filed a grievance regarding the choice of health care plans. The grievance, now at step 3, is set for arbitration November 30. HMC's costs for the arbitration are estimated at \$4,500. The cost of settlement, if any, is unknown. HMC pays 100% of the premium for ferry crew employees and the office manager. If all covered employees participate in a health assessment, the cost of this year's premium increase could be reduced 7.5%.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between HMC and the IBU provided that all disciplinary reprimands prior to its September 12 approval by the Board would be removed from the ferry employee files. All crew members were to sign the Code of Conduct, as proposed to HMC and agreed by their union. Only one has signed.

Payment Approval: It has become difficult for the Board to communicate between meetings. Our attorney has suggested that, to facilitate the payment of budgeted expenses, **the Board authorize the Island Manager to approve payment** so that we can avoid late payment penalties and reimburse small contractors. This is, according to him, a standard practice among HOA's. All bills would still be reviewed and approved by the Board at the monthly meeting and the Board would retain ultimate financial control.

Water Operations:

Charles Smith has been organizing and conducting training session in the use of the water maintenance trailer. There will be a training session immediately following the November 14 meeting.

HMC is now billing for water usage, with one month's usage reflected in the most recent billing. So far, all seems to be going well. Thanks again to the Water Committee for their hard work.

Water Committee Report: Charles Smith will report for the committee.

Fire Department Liaison: Two members filed applications for volunteer fire fighter. We have not heard from FD #16 whether they will be able to proceed with testing and successfully assign volunteers to serve Herron Island.

Land Use: No report.

Emergency Preparedness: Pat Zazzo has resigned as co-chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Anyone interested in participating on this committee should notify Mike Shettlesworth.

Parks: Committee Report.

Roads: Committee Report. The repair of the large culvert at Maple and E. Herron was completed last month at a cost of under \$5,000, which included excavating and sleeving the existing culvert, and a great deal of hand labor

to expose the original culvert and surrounding area. One tree was removed to improve access to the culvert. The most recent storm proved that the repair was successful and should last for many years. The Roads Committee met November 10, and will report out at the meeting.

One issue the Roads Committee has been concerned with is the removal of overhanging branches along HMC roads. The suggestion has been made that as volunteers removed the branches, we could hire a contractor to come over with a chipper. Premier Tree Service is willing to provide one day with its big chipper and truck, with two helpers, for \$600. This expense would come out of the Administration tree budget.

Rules: Two new Rules complaints have been filed and forwarded to the Rules Committee and to the respondents.

Herron Island Ferry:

Dolphin Replacement Project: PND Engineers are now attempting to schedule Quigg Bros to come out and drive the test piles. **They have asked HMC to cancel the 9 a.m. run from the mainland, and the 12 noon from the island in order to accommodate the testing.** This requires a decision of the Board, and notice to members and contractors, but given that is Thanksgiving week, it looks doable. The current contract called for a design report and cost estimate in December 2015. 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. Hopefully the work can be done in one day.

Other:

Dale Miller has been hired to train as a standby deck hand, and Jon Robinson, of Olympia, has trained and qualified as a standby captain. Donnie Surratt has requested reducing his hours to part-time and will no longer work Mondays; Kevin Kircher remains on the sick list, the date of his return to work is unknown at this time.

Our standby captains Tom Gall and Jon Robinson, and standby deck hand Bruce Mowell have received many compliments from members.

Technology: No report.

Legal Liaison: This month a longtime delinquency was paid in full, at approximately \$12,000. We currently have 12 delinquencies, 7 of which are with the attorney for collections. Delinquency rate of 3%. Last year at this time we had 14 delinquencies, with 7 at collections. Currently, HMC has 383 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.