

October 10, 2015

Administration:

Volunteers: Thanks to Leslie Sanderson, Sue Pottorff, Linda Crowe, Jane Morgan, and Jean Mellor for spending the larger part of an entire day organizing auto decals and organizing them for mailing to Members. Thanks to the volunteers who patrolled the parking lot on the mainland side. To our knowledge, except for the theft of tools, no other damage occurred.

Burn Ban and Burn Ban sign: The Burn Ban was cancelled by the Board at the end of the Ramp painting Project. Members should be guided once again by the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office. Once again a souvenir seeker has removed an HMC sign. If found, please return it.

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. No one has signed and returned the Code to the office.

Realtor Access and Property Transfer Fee Policy: This policy had gotten outdated because it incorporated a specific fee amount. We have amended the language to refer to "fee adopted in the annual budget" instead. The amended policy requires Board approval.

Tree Removal: Several trees on HMC property have identified for removal because they may present a threat to life and property. One of the biggest is the dead fir at North Beach, which will be removed. For the present, the last big fir at North Beach will remain. Chips will be dropped at Nature Park for pickup.

Administrative Staff: Patti Haenan-Jones has tendered her resignation as backup office staff. Rondi Akers is still available during some portion of the year, but to assure continuity, we have offered Charles Smith the opportunity to train as backup to the Office Manager and he has accepted.

Community Calendar: In the press of office business, the calendar update sometimes doesn't get done. This is an ideal volunteer opportunity. Merry Kogut has kindly offered her services in keeping the calendar updated. Meeting notices should still come to the office and we will forward them to Merry.

Email Blast: We are learning a new software to send out "global emails". The first message was sent last week. The software is free.

Water Operations:

Charles Smith has been organizing and conducting training session in the use of the water maintenance trailer. Anyone interested in setting other training dates should contact him at hmcwater@herronisland.org or 1-206-707-4645.

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.

Water Committee Report: The Water Committee is looking for members. This is a very active committee, reviewing water operations, projects, usage, rates and other matters. The next meeting has been set for Friday, October 16.

Fire Department Liaison: Many thanks to the Fire Department for obtaining a fireboat for possible use during the ramp painting project. Luckily for island residents, it wasn't called out.

Land Use: No report.

Emergency Preparedness: Mike Shettlesworth and Pat Zazzo have collected information on Emergency Preparedness that will be organized and posted on the website with a new button "In An Emergency". Janet Podell has volunteered to prepare a draft of the web material.

Parks: Committee Report.

Small boat dock removal is set for Saturday, October 10, immediately following the Board meeting. Volunteers needed! Refreshments to be provided.

Roads: Committee Report. The Roads Committee has begun excavating the large culvert at Maple and East Herron to determine the nature of repair. Unfortunately, they struck a telecommunications cable, which has been repaired by CenturyLink. Despite our repeated efforts, CenturyLink did not pass the word internally that they could have ferry access during the ramp painting, and thus the phone line repair was delayed. 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: An appeal of Complaint 2015-01 is scheduled to take place following the Board meeting.

Herron Island Ferry:

Ferry Ramp Painting: This project went very well. The painters were at work 10 hours a day and the weather cooperated. The County assisted us in asking Isted Road homeowners to remove their driftwood barriers from the public road easement to make room for more parking, which was needed. According to the project engineer, the prime contractor and painters performed additional work outside the contract, in removing an unused corroded ladder, and painting the steel safety rails that enclose the winch platform. At each terminal there are corroded guide pile struts which were not in the scope of work, but which will have to be addressed at some point in the future. Review of these can be incorporated in the next biennial inspection of the ramps required by HMC's contract with Pierce County.

Dolphin Replacement Project: The final permit has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. PND Engineers are now attempting to schedule Quigg Bros to come out and drive the test piles. 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:

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. A new candidate will begin training this month.

Technology: No report. Many thanks again to Fred Fath for his many hours spent in building our system for water billing.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 23 delinquencies, 8 of which are with the attorney for collections, and thirteen of which are amounts under \$200. Delinquency rate of 6.0%, but it will rapidly shrink as the small amount are paid off. Last year at this time we had 18 delinquencies, with 7 at collections. Currently, HMC has 383 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.