

## **Island Manager Report August 14, 2021**

### **Administration**

Thank you!

- Charlie Folk, he has obtained the Fire Dept phone app for other deckhands, this allows better connection vs using a radio pager that has been inconsistent for 911 emergency ferry runs
- Dan Marten, solution provider, he is taking on diagnosis of water problems
- Kevin Kircher, water truck, great job on roads
- Carolyn and Tony in the office for all they do
- Welcome back to Tracy Anspach who has again volunteered to chair the Parks Committee, please contact Tracy or Carolyn Anspach to volunteer with them for Parks

### **Safety on Ferry St while in queue**

Please do not attempt to trade spaces with other vehicles, instead, if there are people that will let someone go in front of them talk to the crew once down the hill. It is dangerous to attempt trading spaces up the hill. In addition, please do not save spaces for service providers, they may call the captain to discuss boarding, if needed. **Ferry Phone - 253-691-1457.**

### **Fire safety on Ferry St**

The crew has reported seeing cigarettes tossed from windows into the brush at the side of the Ferry St hill. They have stomped some of these out that were smoldering. They also pick them up as they can.

HMC requests that no one throw cigarettes onto surrounding grounds of Ferry St.

HMC has purchased fire hose equipment fire hose capable of connecting to the hydrant nearest the road and to the outlet at the bottom of the hill. This will allow the crew, or others to quickly act in the event of fire.

### **Road Grading**

HMC had roads on the mainland and island serviced in July. The island roads are holding up well, maintenance was performed in certain areas needing attention. The roads will be graded throughout in October after rains begin.

Two years ago, Pierce County granted use of the Pierce County right-of-way, that today is Lane 3 at the mainland loading area. For this to be granted HMC must keep up the condition of that lane by grading and applying gravel annually. Work was done there, and in Lane 4, along with the exit area near the mailboxes. Those areas needed attention due to potholes.

All of this and having two deckhands on Fri/Sat during summer has allowed HMC to pull traffic lines off N. Herron Rd. as desired by the county. Alternatives would have been to buy a lot uphill for overload and have traffic light system, those options would have been quite expensive.

### **Webmaster**

Thank you to HMC's new webmaster, Josh Roppo, who also has a busy day job. He is taking on the updating of the website, he will work with me to continue to update, and to post relevant information for the board meetings.

This may take a little time to get up to date, please be patient and communicate questions to me, if needed, thank you.

### **HMC Work in progress**

- HMC/Key Bank – review of website-based payment systems as potential for online payments, October review
- HMC has applied for a Blue Cross/Blue Shield settlement in a class-action lawsuit that may ultimately provide a payout due to unfair market competition.
- 2020 Audit review pending

## **High Speed internet**

- HMC is reviewing potential Pierce County high-speed internet grant
- Please participate in the Washington High Speed internet study program. The state Department of Commerce is collecting information to help them assess where internet is needed, goal for state-wide coverage is 2024. Please participate in this speed test link. You can also sign up for newsletter information on the project.
  - GO TO this link:

[Washington State Annual Broadband Speed Test - Washington State Department of Commerce](#)

## **County Abatement Process for current HMC derelict properties**

- A letter will be sent to owner(s), then there is a 14-day appeal period. If appealed, the owner may be permitted to clean it within a certain timeframe.
- If not appealed, it then goes to Pierce County Superior Court where it takes approximately a year for this process due to backlog.
- Once the abatement is granted by Superior Court, Code Enforcement will begin the abatement process. They hire third parties and manage them. HMC works with the county for ferry access, which is paid by the county.
  - Informative link to Pierce County Code Enforcement

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1571/Code-Enforcement>

## **Has your water meter cover been damaged, or worse, your antenna damaged?**

HMC will replace these at your expense, to keep the water system functioning properly, just email or call the office.

Please ensure when mowing or when work is happening around the meter box to avoid damaging it. Example of costs; a new lid is \$100; a new antenna is \$500.

**Volunteer Positions Still Open** Please contact Jane Wooster at [hmcmanager@herronisland.org](mailto:hmcmanager@herronisland.org) for to find out more. Thank you!

**Ad Hoc Volunteers** – please consider providing your name, contact and area of repair or task interest so you can be contacted as needed, the Island Manager will contact you for odd jobs that arise.

**HMC Urgent Need- review of water department billing program:** HMC seeks an Excel “super-user” (programming may be involved) to look at the current water billing program and advise viability of continued use.

**Legal Liaison:** There are 9 delinquencies; 7 with the attorney’s office

## **Departments/Committees**

**Parks:** Tracy Anspach

**Policies:** Mike Gage

**Roads/Water Maintenance:** Dan Marten

**Emergency Preparedness:** Ken Higgins

**Rules:** Mike Fassio, 1 pending

**Small Boat Docks:** Sherri Anderson