

Date: April 7, 2008
Location: St Philomena's Church Hall
Subject: Minutes of the HIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Attendance: Geoff Hobbs, Faye Muller, Gary Hall, Terry Botten, Brian Humphries, Gary Nichol, Gerry Ross
Regrets: Lisa Webb, David Jones
Guests: Matt Fiene

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
Minutes of last meeting were accepted as given.	
Treasurer's Report-currently have \$1387.68 in bank minus some outstanding bills	Gary Hall
Memberships: An email renewal campaign will start June 1. New members and renewals will be canvassed at the recycling depot every Saturday during the month of July. The membership fee will stay at \$10.00 per household per year (July 1, 2008 to June 20, 2009) or there will be an option of two years for \$20.00. The membership application will be changed to reflect a return address for Gary Hall	Faye
The current list of services on the HIRA site will be revised to include only businesses and services located on Howe Island or operated by Howe Islanders. Also decided was that we need a process to identify our island businesses. It was felt that any of the businesses represented in this list would need to be owned by HIRA members in order to place a formal advertisement on the site.	Gerry & David
Website Advertising was discussed. We are starting to get requests from residents who are looking for services. The Communications Committee was asked to develop an advertising plan and policy. The list of island services (members and non-members) needs to be updated and revised to include only island/islander businesses. Advertising would be provided only for HIRA members and it would be free of charge for non-business residents. Advertising for island businesses needs to be developed.	
Matt is looking into companies who can provide hi-speed internet access for the entire island.	Matt
Incorporation documents for HIRA will be ready in approx. one month. Thanks to islander Bill Robertson of Borden, Ladner, and Gervais for getting us started and headed in the right direction.	Terry
It was discussed that the Ferry operators on both Ferries did an outstanding job during the severe weather over the winter. It was also agreed that it made a big difference having both Ferries operating. We must now ensure that they both continue to run in winter. Is a bubble system a possibility considering the \$652,000 grant given to the township? Or more importantly, do we need ramp and dock work to better accommodate low water levels. It has yet to be determined how this grant will be split between the islands.	Terry, Gary N.
The roads were also kept in excellent condition with timely plowing by Larry Quinn.	
Mayor Jim Vanden Hoek spent time on Howe Island inspecting the condition of our roads. While on the island, Mayor Vanden Hoek met with the HIRA board. With the province announcing the allocation of \$652,596 to the township for transportation, the split amongst the islands hasn't been determined. HIRA will review the 2009 winter operation of the township ferry with our Howe Island officials. As well and based on the transportation funding from the province, HIRA will review the road and ferry work plans for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Gary and Terry will meet with Chris Messerschmidt regarding the operation of the county ferry.	Terry & Gary N.

A tentative date for the Annual General Meeting of HIRA is early July. Agenda will follow.	All
The OMB hearing for the island quarry is scheduled for April 14, 10:30 AM in the fire hall. A settlement was reached between Dan Keyes and BHIRD through the OMB. One appellant, Mr. Williamson, has withdrawn his appeal so the meeting will simply be the OMB Board member wrapping up the process. The public may attend.	
Meeting to discuss the Official Plan for the Township of Frontenac Islands will be on April 16. Details will be on the township website or available at the township office. HIRA encourages islanders to attend.	
.....	
HIRA has agreed to coordinate the annual roadside cleanup this year including a pick up of old vehicles. Tentative date is first week in May.	Geoff
.....	
It was identified that the township may sell the last remaining public waterfront lot on Howe.	Geoff
.....	
Rogers has posted a notice in the Whig that they will build a cell tower on the Lower Side Road. More details will be posted on the HIRA site.	Gerry
.....	
The HIRA website status was reported. The site averages around 10 visitors a day. There are over a 1000 page-views per month. Currently, only a little over 12 island residents are regular visitors with the majority of visits coming from across North America with a handful from around the world. The main page and the photos page get the most views. Articles about meetings, transportation and development are popular. Gerry highlighted the need for 3 or 4 residents willing to contribute from different areas of the island, someone to report news from the Township Website and someone to summarize key items in the monthly Township Minutes.	Gerry
Meeting adjourned time 9:15 PM	
Next meeting May 5, 6:30 PM at St. Philomena's Hall.	