

HIRA

The Howe Island Ratepayers Association

Date: December 5, 2008
Location: Husky
Subject: Minutes of the HIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Attendance: Gary Hall, Brian Humphrys, Bob Staples, Terry Botten, Gary Nichol
Regrets: Faye Muller
Guests:

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
Minutes of last meeting were accepted as given.	
Treasurer's Report-cash balance is \$772.99 excluding outstanding invoices	Gary Hall
Membership is currently reported at 103 households plus 2 pending.	
Deer situation on Howe-The committee was to meet recently but was unable to because the key for the Parish Hall could not be located. Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has been on the island to test for Chronic Wasting Disease. No results have been reported as yet. MNR did issue an additional tags for deer on the island.	Terry Botten
Communications-After 2 years of establishing (with Robert Hall) and running the HIRA website, Gerry Ross has decided to step down. We, at HIRA, would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Gerry for all the work that he put into the website and for making it one of the best local sites in the province. We will continue to provide local news with the help of others.	
Ferry fares-The Township has announced that the 2009 ferry rates will increase by 50 cents to \$4.50 per round trip. Yearly passes have also increased to \$270 for two vehicles. With regard to the collection of the fares, we wish to dispel rumours that HIRA was watching to see who was not collecting or paying fares. This was simply not true. HIRA's sole role in this was to remind the mayor of comments he had made in Council during the October meeting that some did not pay the fare which results in lower revenues and requires higher costs to be recovered from other users.	
MPAC-A meeting was held to explain how MPAC works and how the assessments are determined. There were mixed reviews as to how useful the meeting was. One thing is clear is that the high assessments do not mean that the Township will have a windfall in tax revenues. They will develop their budget and then set the mill rate to cover the projected costs. Therefore, with assessments higher the mill rate should be lower.	Terry Botten
WRAFT-The Waterfront Ratepayers Association for Fair Taxation met in Toronto recently and was represented by HIRA. This group is made up of over 300 associations across the province who are concerned about the taxation rates for waterfront properties growing faster than inland properties. For example, in the Kinston region the average total increase was 35% since 2005. Waterfront properties increased 46%. HIRA will continue to work with WRAFT.	Terry Botten
HIRA-We are looking for islanders who have not joined HIRA to expand our membership and give us a larger voice with governments. We are also looking for people who would like to sit on the HIRA Board. Those interested, please call any of the board members listed above. All of us are in	

the phone book.

Meeting adjourned time 11:30 AM

Next meeting date, April 2, 6:30 PM at St. Philomena's Hall.