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Hamilton Parish Council (HPC) Annual Report for April 2020 to March 2021

Membership: Two members have stepped down (Judith Lindo-Sept 2020 and Larry Hodge-January 2021) and one has passed on. (Laverne Furbert 2021) No new members have been added to the council during the calendar year 2020-2021. Letia Outerbridge and Peter Barrett are working with the council as volunteers.

Meetings: The Council was scheduled to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Lyceum Building on Wilkinson Avenue. Due to Covid Protocols, meetings were held online via Zoom. The council has not been gazetted as of May 2021. During the year, the council met approximately 9 times. We did not host a public meeting in November during the fiscal year due to Covid Protocols and other challenges.

Audit: 2021-pending finalization.

HPC #9 Radnor Road: As of December, the tenant has vacated the cottage. Repairs to the cottage have commenced. No movement/action regarding undeveloped land.

Hamilton Parish Scholarship: A total of \$15,000 was awarded to three scholars for the Hamilton Parish Scholarship Program — Giovanni Hollis, Ritica Belboda and Sage Jackson. Information on the program is available on our website, our Facebook page and on Bermudascholarships.com. The Council received a matching grant from the Lyceum Trust in the amount of \$9,000.00. HPC members contributed funds and attendance fees to the scholarship.

Hamilton Parish Assistance Program: In light of Covid, which has caused many residents to experience financial difficulties, a program was introduced in September 2020 whereby we gave out food and electrical bill vouchers to residents in need. We assisted approximately 20 families by donating \$4,500 in total.

Website and Facebook: The Hamilton Parish Council maintains a website and a Facebook page. The website and Facebook page are used as platforms to store important documents; administer the HPC scholarship program, manage communications, and share information with parish residents and the public.

Hamilton Parish Cleanup: This annual effort is held in conjunction with the island wide KBB initiative however due to covid the council did not participate in the clean-up.

Hamilton Parish Public Meeting: No public meeting was schedule for this year due to covid.

Hamilton Parish and the Ministry: In mid-January Minister Peets, requested a meeting with the parish council chairs or a designated representative to make it known that there was an initiative to make the councils autonomous, i.e., severe the relationship between the councils and the ministry.

A working group was formed to discuss the best way forward to accomplish this as no two councils are the same, so a variety of options were put forth. A deadline of 31st December 2021 was given for each council to decide and transition into each council's new status. From a government not for profit organization to the type of organization that best suits their individual mandate. It was also stated that no new members would be appointed to the councils during this period of transition.

Submitted for your information.

Amoti K. Nyabongo

Chairman - Hamilton Parish Council