

**NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 1995, MEETING
WESTSIDE SCHOOL COMPLEX, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ**

President Tom Laverty called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

He introduced Felicia Grondin, President of the Inlet Public/Private Association (IPPA), Atlantic City, which is preserving the Absecon Light. Felicia Grondin then spoke. IPPA was established in 1988 to change the inlet section of Atlantic City. The lighthouse is part of their logo. They had a historic structure report done on the lighthouse and it was funded by a grant. They have an executive director beginning January 1. IPPA will apply to the Casino Re-development Authority for funds. They want to construct a lighthouse keeper's structure to house an office and museum. They are in the process of executing a lease with the state for the lighthouse, prior to beginning restoration. Executive Director, Absecon Lighthouse, Sara Cureton, starts her new position on January 1, 1996.

Tom asked those present to read the minutes of the last Society meeting as handed out at the door. He asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Al Smith moved the minutes be approved as distributed. Motion carried.

Treasurer Debbie Megonigal presented the treasurer's report. The balance is \$5,706.57. George Feirer moved the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried.

Tom reminded those present that membership dues are now due.

Tom reported the new museum at Twin Lights opened today.

The vendor policy discussed at the last Society meeting is being discussed by the board members and will be presented at the March meeting.

Tom stated the October boat trip was canceled due to the weather two weeks in a row.

Yvonne Miller, program chairperson, stated the next meeting is March 23 in Sea Girt at St. Uriel's Episcopal Church on Third and Philadelphia Avenues. There will be a photo contest, a presentation, and the meeting at 11 a.m. preceded by hospitality at 10:30 a.m. Sea Girt Lighthouse will be open from 1-3 p.m. The Chesapeake Chapter approved a joint meeting with our Society in June to see Concord Point Light; details of this meeting will be published in "The Beam." The agenda will be different than other meetings; we will meet at Concord Point Light for tour, then to a meeting place or restaurant. A mailing will be sent out for reservations for meeting, and information on motels will be available. The September meeting will be at Twin Lights. A meeting at the Philadelphia Maritime Museum will not be held; they agreed to charge us \$800 for a room they normally charge \$1,500 for; and it was decided not to hold a meeting there due to cost. In December 1996 we may meet at Barnegat Light. Other suggestions for locations and programs are welcome for this and any future meetings.

Joan Walton presented a membership report. The Society has approximately 570 members and 40 affiliates. Two new members present introduced themselves. Limited edition prints of Barnegat Light done by Howard Woerner are available for purchase; money from prints goes in our preservation fund.

Carol DiNapoli, activities chairperson, will reschedule the Ambrose Light boat trip, and possibly arrange another trip into the Delaware Bay with a restaurant stop, and a third trip in summer. Many present were interested in a summer boat trip. In fall, there will possibly be a boat trip in Hudson River Valley.

Annette Colt, ways and means, reported there are items handmade by a member on sale today. A new rubber stamp for the Society logo will be available; approximately 30 people indicated interest in purchasing it. The Smiths are researching a new cloisonne logo pin. Tom Laverty indicated the board will discuss the new membership pins at the January board meeting.

Fred Theis, preservation committee, mentioned a seaway trail idea such as New York has. He also asked Felicia Grondin to call him if they need any preservation help, and Al Smith the same regarding East Point Light.

Tom Lavery met with Middletown Township Committee on Open Space regarding Conover Beacon and they were very interested in getting involved with Conover Beacon. They will approach the Middletown Township Mayor regarding adding it to Parks and Recreation Division of Middletown Township. Our Society will follow up on this.

Carl Nelson will chair our annual photo contest to be held in March in Sea Girt. There will be two categories: (1) "straight" shots of lighthouses (like last year), and (2) close-ups of lighthouses (such as doorways, stairways, lenses, etc.--a new category). You may enter either color photos or black and white photos. You may enter three photos in each category--a total of six photos. You may re-submit a photo that didn't win. The entrant must be a Society member. A discussion was held regarding entries by "professional" photographers or entries that have been sold. Carl said he doesn't have the resources to police this matter and there are no such rules in our contest. He stated our contest is for fun, and gave the example that he has sold photos and does not consider himself a professional photographer. A photo mounting/matting workshop on Sunday, January 7, 1-4 p.m. at Twin Lights will be held; a sign-up sheet is available today. Carl will speak about what makes a good photo. Contest rules are available today. Entrants should pick up their photos at the end of the contest; or, if not, contact Carl within 2 weeks to pick up your photos.

Jack Granger spoke on preservation and feels we are not closely enough involved in preservation and more active participation by our Society, especially with IPPA and Absecon Light, is needed. He stated we need a publicity chairman since our last one had to resign.

Tom Lavery asked if anyone present would like to volunteer for publicity or preservation. Richard and Eleanor Veit volunteered to chair publicity. Tom stated that Tim Harrison, Lighthouse Digest, is on our mailing list for "The Beam" and he has contacted him in the past. Tom will contact Tim again to see if there is anything he can do to improve communications so that articles of our area get in the "Digest." It was stated that the mailing of the recent "Beam" crossed their publication in the mail and perhaps that's why information from our area didn't make it in time to get in the "Digest."


Katherine Von Ahnen, a member and volunteer at Cape May Lighthouse, will be on the Discovery channel. She will hold a workshop on how to get self-published on Saturday, February 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Borough Hall in West Cape May. Cost is \$10, includes a three-page detailed handout, and proceeds go to Cape May Historical Society.

Elections of officers was held. Tom introduced those running for office: Second VP-- Steve Martorano; Directors (three new)--Jack Granger, Al Smith, and Dick Phillips; Corresponding Secretary -- Joan Walton. George Feirer, judge of elections, reported 49 ballots were mailed. Nominations were closed. Jim Cope moved that the secretary cast the votes for ballot. Those above, running for office in the printed ballot, were elected.

Marge Ridolfi moved the meeting be adjourned at 12:25 p.m. After a lunch break, Michael Henry, Architect, Watson and Henry Associates, showed slides and gave a presentation on the restoration of Cape May Light, and spoke also about proposed restoration to Absecon Light.

A 50/50 drawing was held, and a memorabilia drawing was held.

At 2:37 p.m., members went to view the outside of Absecon Light.


Nancy Matthews
Recording Secretary