

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting – March 31, 2012**

Long Beach Island Elementary School
Ship Bottom, New Jersey
www.njlhs.org

President's Call to Order

President Brett Franks called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.
Brett then asked for all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
Today, we are featuring our annual Photo Contest with our first ever Art Contest. After lunch we will be giving our winning artists time to tell about their artwork and photos.

Minutes from Prior General Meetings

Karen Owen submitted the minutes from the December 10, 2011 meeting at Wall, New Jersey. Bob Newhouse made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by another member. All were in favor and minutes approved.

Financial Updates

Treasurer's Report:

Faith Giamboi presented her report as of February 29, 2012:

Operating Fund	\$ 10,429.97
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,881.73
Preservation Funds	<u>\$ 20,605.62</u>
Operating Account Total	\$ 34,917.32

Preservation 13month CD	\$ 15,000.00
Sandy Hook 2yr. CD	\$ 15,000.00
Sandy Hook Account	\$ 15,151.30
Sandy Hook Donations	\$ 2,365.57 (money to be turned over to Sandy Hook as per MOA (contract) with the National Parks Service)

Society Balance Total \$ 82,434.19

Finance Committee's Report:

Published copies were available to all members in attendance.
Tom Laverty gave the report in the absence of Jim Cope.
The Finance Committee met on February 11, 2012 at the home of Jim and Nancy Cope to prepare the New Jersey Lighthouse Society's 2012 budget. The budget was then passed by the Board at their meeting on February 18, 2012.
Tom highlighted a few items.

- In Operating Income, the committee was very cautious with dues and donations due to the current economy. Only two (2) trips were planned for 2012. The total income proposed is \$62,745.00.
- In Expenses, the Administrative Expenses include storage facilities due to our exile from Sandy Hook. Once all Sandy Hook business is closed, the Sandy Hook Account will be closed. Another item that will be discussed later in the meeting is the Preservation items. This brings the total 2012 budget to \$83,845.00.

Tom then entertained questions from the General Membership.

- Why are the Sandy Hook donations being given to Sandy Hook? As per our contract with the National Parks Service, all 2010-2011 donations need to be given directly to Sandy Hook. It is legally necessary to give the money to the National Parks Service.
- Apryl was concerned that the 5 Day Canada trip was not approved so a contract was never made with the tour company. Apryl cited that no Board Member made contact with her to tell her the 2012 Budget was approved.

First Vice President – Anthony Albence (absent, but sent a report)

Publicity

The NJLHS is currently on 75-77 media outlets. We have 400 followers on Facebook.

Community Outreach:

Due to Anthony's absence, Brett made the report with the assistance of Mary Catherine Kennedy. The group has already gone to the Decoy Show in January. There are plans to attend the Red Mill Green Fair in Clinton on Sunday, April 22 as well as the Earth Day Celebration in Point Pleasant on Saturday, April 21. All are welcomed to come out and assist! Check the website for more events to come.

Education Outreach / Speakers Bureau:

Bob Gleason reported that he and Bill Volpe attended the Parlin School where they spoke to 50 students and 3 teachers. The students gave the New Jersey Lighthouse Society a check for \$270.00. Pennies they had saved for the preservation of lighthouses. Bob reported that the students knew a lot and it was very exciting to share with them. Bill added that the Children's Activity Book was given to the lead teachers prior to the presentation. This seemed to make the children more excited about the presentation.

Grade schools to seniors need to hear the news about the New Jersey Lighthouses. Bill, Faith and Bob are always looking for help. It is valuable and exciting to share with others. Please check with Bill, Faith or Bob if you are interested. They already have a list of speaking engagements for 2012.

Website:

The website is up and running. Art winners will be posted. Check frequently for new material and information.

Second Vice President – Rich Veit

Archives and/or Preservation:

Rich announced that in lieu of a prize raffle, this year we may do cash or debit card raffle. He has some questions he wants to ask the State of New Jersey, but this is what is in the works for the end of the year.

Board of Director – Doreen Berson

Membership:

Doreen and Bob Gleason reported that there are currently 180(360*) Family Memberships and 143 Single Memberships purchased. *Family Memberships each count as 2 (no matter how many persons are in the family) for a Total Membership of 503. For today's meeting there were a total of 76 member attendees with 3 guests. Quorum was met.

Note: New Membership Brochures are in the process of being printed. Membership classifications are changing (as per the By Laws and Constitution).

Hospitality:

At the end of the meeting it was reported that Hospitality covered their costs through donations with an increase of \$4.72. Thanks to all!

New Jersey Lighthouse Liaison:

Doreen reported that the 2012 New Jersey Challenge is scheduled for October 20-21, 2012. It seems later this year, but it is still on the third weekend in October.

Board of Director – Carol Winkie

Ways & Means:

Carol reported that there are many items on sale at reduced prices and encouraged all to come to the sales tables during lunch or after the meeting. She had several Sandy Hook hoodies for \$20.00 and Challenge T-Shirts for \$5.00. Many sizes of all merchandise are available, but only a sample is on the table, please ask for your size. She shared that the credit card machine was no longer able to be used, but we accept checks or cash. If an item is desired and the member does not have the money today, they can take their purchase with them and then send payment in when they get home. Carol concluded by saying that she is always looking for the future wants of the membership and would appreciate any ideas or thoughts be e-mailed from the membership to her.

Elinor Veit, through Rich, shared that she would like to donate more books that she wrote to the Society for sale, if the Society is out of stock. Carol thanked Elinor and said she will let the Veit's know when if and when more books are needed.

Board of Director – Mary Beth Doherty (absent)

Bylaws and Constitution:

Nothing to report at this time

N.E.L.L. (New England Lighthouse Lovers) Liaison: No report at this time.

Board of Director – Karl Fahringer (new Board Member appointed due to the resignation of Mike Boucher)

THE BEAM:

Brett presented the new editor for the Beam: Lauren Ward of Cinnaminson. Lauren is a soon to be college graduate with much experience in publishing. We are pleased to have her join us. Mike was thanked for all he has done and he offered his assistance to Lauren, if needed.

Trips:

A trip leaving from Chincoteague, Virginia is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th. 35 people have signed up already, 10 are still needed to make the trip "a go". There is a hotel where the bus will meet those attending that has opened early in the season just for us. Reservations at the hotel need to be made by the individuals attending. Assateague Light might be opened for climbing. The bus will take us to Cape Charles then a boat shuttle will be provided to take all to the light. We will also be seeing a replica of a light at a nearby golf course. It should be a great trip!

April then presented a recap of trips taken since 2009. She shared her reasons for volunteering and her objective. She continued to say that the lack of communication and/or follow-up has been counterproductive to meeting her objective and as of today, March 31, 2012, she is resigning as the Trips Chairperson for the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. Brett apologized for the communication lack, but is hopeful that things are changing in a positive direction. He thanked Apryl for all she has done and the membership gave her a round of applause.

Board of Director – Jim Cope (absent)

Budget Committee

See report under Finance above

Historian (with Bouchers): nothing at this time

For the Good of the Society:

Brett said we need some re-invigoration of life into the Society. We have been in need of a Meetings Chairperson and now a Trips Chairperson. We are thankful for the Beam editor position being filled by Lauren. More members need to get involved.

Brett then suggested we break for lunch and reconvene at 1:00 P.M..

BREAK

Old Business:

Sandy Hook (recap)– The National Parks Service has taken over the Keepers House for a Visitors Center. All of the property of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society has been removed from the premises and placed in storage. Sandy Hook is still very important to the Society. We have placed funds in a certificate of deposit (CD) for use during the 2014 anniversary year. There are many ideas the Society would like to entertain in Sandy Hook's honor. It was questioned: What will happen to Sandy Hook? Answer: Fort Hancock is now being run by the National Parks Service. Question: What is the future of Sandy Hook? Answer: Everything in the government is on a pendulum. It is swinging out where they feel no assistance is needed at Sandy Hook. However, it is not as easy as they thought. They now have a little bookstore. It is Brett's thinking that in a five year period, we should be back, hopefully in time for the 2014 anniversary celebration. Rich Veit asked about the Sandy Hook Foundation. Brett said only our Society was "kicked out" by the National Parks Service not the Foundation's.

Challenge (update) – It was requested that the New Jersey Lighthouse Society get involved in the Lighthouse Challenge again. At this time, we are looking to be more involved during the 2014 Challenge since that will be the 15th year Anniversary which would go along with our plans to honor Sandy Hook.

New Business:

2012 Preservation

Twin Lights has a new exhibit – Life Keeper Station. There is a light that is in disrepair and is preserved in storage. The Society would like to see this Fifth Order Lens from the Range Light at Chapel Hill get paired with Twin Lights.

Finns Point has been taken over by the National Fish and Wildlife along with Supawna Meadows. The light was not safe and so the government stepped in and fixed the walkways, stairs and painted the lighthouse both inside and out. There is a new director at the location and his focus is to make the lighthouse the focal point of the meadows. National Fish and Wildlife and the Society would like to see the house their mimic the Absecon museum and gift shop. Climbing the tower, right now, is not available. But once a jumpers' cage is installed by the government, they will be looking for volunteers to lead a climb. The Society would like to see the transfer of the Sandy Hook store merchandise and furniture be relocated there. We can reinvent what we did at Sandy Hook now in a southern location of the state. Opportunity is back. There is a dedicated effort to make the Finns Point Light a landmark as the foot of the New Jersey Marine Heritage Trail. Volunteers will be needed for tours and the gift shop. It is another opportunity to get in on the ground floor and see where it goes. It is not a "doom and gloom" time for the Society, but a re-invention time. It's a new challenge in a different area of the state. The original Fresnel lens could be the focal point of the new museum at the location. The Society would like to get the lens stabilized, incased and displayed using the money received in memory of George Naill. We would then provide a plaque dedicating the piece in George's memory. (Mary Beth Dougherty has also received a donation from her place of employment to the Lighthouse Society in the amount of \$500.00 for her hours of dedication. She would like this money be used for this effort as well.) We hope to have all in place by the June 30, 2012 meeting in Pennsville and have a memorial dedication at that time. Finns Point is our next major project and it seems that Fish and Wildlife have our back.

Absecon Lighthouse will be receiving a grant to use to focus on the museum exhibit on "Keepers Lives; what was it like for the families?" Elinor Veit will be working with the Lighthouse workers providing information.

A lot has gone bad. Money is a big issue. It is not a dire situation. The ship has been righted. Things are looking up! Faith shared, "If we each help with one little piece of the puzzle a lot could get accomplished". She continued by encouraging members to just take one aspect of a project, which would be a great help in getting things done.

Upcoming Events:

National Lighthouse Day is Tuesday, August 7th, 2012. Hereford Light is planning a celebration for that day. Please save this date. As information comes in, membership will be updated.

The June 30, 2012 meeting is to be held in Riverview Park in Pennsville, New Jersey (as last year). The hope is to have a lighthouse from the Port of Wilmington along with Finns Point opened. We are also looking for entertainment and food for this location. 2013 Photo Contest will be photos from New Jersey in order to make a 2014 calendar, a fresh New Jersey Lighthouse Society venture.

Adjournment:

Congratulations to Apryl Roach for winning the 50/50.
Congratulations to all those who won door prizes.

Thanks were given to Judy and her team for all they have done for the Photo/Art contest. Also thanks to all those who participated.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Painting: 1st prize – Brett Franks, 2nd prize – Margo Murphy, 3rd prize Gregory DiNapoli

Needlework: 1st – Mildred Plant (quilt), 2nd Kathy Lanzim (cross stitch), 3rd tie - Karl Fahringer (needle point and plastic canvas tissue holder)

Black and White Photos: 1st – Howard Wright for Nobska Light, 2nd Howard Wright for East Crop, 3rd – Anita Norris for Aransas Pass.

Night Photos: 1st – Joan Stumpf for Barnegat, 2nd Carol Winkie for Cape May, 3rd Apryl Roach for Roosevelt Island

Color Photos: 1st – Gregory DiNapoli for Hereford in Spring, 2nd – Hugh Murphy for Stairs at Currituck, 3rd (tie) – Karl Fahringer for Sanibel Island and Bill Volpe for Currituck Beach, Honorable Mention – Karl Fahringer for St. Marks Lighthouse

Masters Category: 1st – William McKelvey for Pemaquid Point, 2nd – Kathleen Eustace for Tucker's Island, 3rd – Mike Boucher for Hamburg Lightship

Barnegat Light and museum will be opened today after the meeting. The First Order Lens in the light was from Chicago's Columbia Expo and World's Fair. At some point a Third Order Lens was added making the light original.

Thank you for coming! Enjoy the day!

Adjournment was called at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen J. Stumpf-Owen
Recording Secretary