

**New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Membership Meeting – March 23, 2013
www.njlhs.org**

Wall Township Intermediate School
2801 Allaire Road
Wall, New Jersey 07719

President's Call to Order

President Brett Franks called the meeting to order at 11:33 A.M.. He stated that today's meeting would include a speaker from Sea Girt Lighthouse, Bill Dunn, speaking on Sea Girt Light: Past, Present, and Future, as well as a member discussion on their Super Storm Sandy Experiences, and finally the annual Society Photo Contest.

Jim Cope reviewed exits from the room along with restroom locations. He then reviewed fire alarm or drill procedures for the location.

Brett then asked all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from Prior General Meetings

Karen Owen, recording secretary, submitted the minutes from the December 15, 2012 meeting at West Cape May Fire Hall. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Doreen Berson and seconded by Rick Hodgman, all were in favor.

Financial Updates

Treasurer's Report:

Faith's report as of February 28, 2013 is as follows:

Operating Fund	\$ 32,357.02	
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,956.73	
Sandy Hook Fund	\$ 2,897.63	
Preservation Fund	\$ 25,807.33	
Finns Point Fund	<u>\$ 978.79</u>	
Operating Account Total	\$64,997.50	
Sandy Hook CD	\$ 15,000.00	matures 9/20/2013
Sandy Hook Donations	<u>\$ 2,365.57</u>	inactive
Total Society Balance	\$ 82,363.07	

**Finance Committee – Jim Cope
2013 Budget**

Jim announced that copies of the 2013 Budget were available at the sign in table. He thanked Faith and the rest of the finance committee for participating and achieving a balanced budget. He noted that income is down with the decline in membership. He also noted that the storage units will be combined into one which will be a reduction in that cost. The Beam will be reduced to an 8 page document four times per year to cut expenses as well. Al Smith asked if

there was a big discrepancy between color vs. black and white copies. This will be looked into. Bill Volpe suggested going electronic over the “hard” copy. Bob Gleason stated that all members were not “online” or technically savvy and there would still be some “hard” copies needed. Mike Boucher reminded that the fewer copies made, the larger the cost. Howie was asked if a members’ only section would be possible on the website. He said that it is possible, but not feasible. He reminded that the current year’s copies of the Beam are not public domain, they are for members only.

Al Smith made a motion to approve the presented 2013 Budget, seconded by Rick Hodgman. All were in favor and the 2013 Budget was approved.

First Vice President – Anthony Albence

Due to Anthony’s absence, his report from the March 2013 Board Meeting was read and then added to by members in attendance.

Publicity

Facebook and Twitter accounts are being updated and maintained. There are approximately 525 “likes” on Facebook. The media list remains at approximately 75 outlets. Anthony will continue to utilize these venues to promote meetings and activities.

Outreach

Community

For the Community Outreach, Anthony is registering for the 2013 events as materials come available. The Community Outreach schedule will be posted on the website with updated information as it becomes available. Anthony is working (internally) to secure volunteers to staff events.

Giveaway supplies were replenished at the end of the 2012 calendar year utilizing the 2012 budgeted funds. Mary Catherine added that there are 9 programs in the works for this year. More people are needed to assist at these events.

Educational

Winnie McKelvey has stepped up to be the coordinator of this outreach. She reported that there have been three speaking engagements to a total of 230 adults. There are five planned engagements up coming in March to May. Winnie stated that more speakers are needed. If anyone is interested they are to see here today..

Second Vice President – Rich Veit

Archives and / or Preservation:

A letter was received from the Barnegat Museum thanking the crew for the cleaning of the lens. In the letter they stated that the museum survived the Super Storm Sandy, but the entire area was in need of help.

Rich added that there will be NO raffle this year due to membership decline. There will definitely be one next year with money prizes.

Rich also thanked his wife, Elinor, for all her help with the light keepers e-mails.

Board of Director - Doreen Berson

Membership

Bob Gleason gave the membership report: today we have 70 members and 2 guests. There are a total of 164 single memberships and (213 x 2) 426 family memberships totaling 590 memberships for 2013. This number reflects both 2012 and 2013 membership. This is the last meeting were 2012 members will be carried into 2013. As of right now, it looks like there is a 20% decline in membership numbers for 2013 only.

Hospitality

Linda and Carol thanked all for their donations for the coffee and donuts purchased.

Challenge

Doreen, with the assistance of Mary Catherine Kennedy, have both been attending the Lighthouse Managers meetings. All seems to be going well, so far. 2014 will be the 15th anniversary of the Challenge. As always the Challenge will be held the third weekend of October. T-shirts, both long and short sleeved, will be for sale prior to the Challenge at the gift shops of the lighthouses. The Managers group received the grant from the New Jersey Office of Tourism again this year.

Board of Director – Carol Winkie

Ways and Means

Carol is out today due to a recent hospitalization. Please keep her in your thoughts, Brett remarked. Due to illness, Carol is no longer able to be the chairperson or work on ways and means. A new chairperson to place orders, work on sales, set up sales, and more is needed. Please talk to one of the Board Members today if you are interested.

Beam

Lauren reported that she is always open to suggestions and critiques on the Beam. Please send any ideas to her e-mail or to her personally. She can be flexible, but there are deadlines.

Board of Director – Mary Beth Doherty

N.E.L.L. (New England Lighthouse Lovers) Liaison

Mary Beth was not present - no report at this time

Board of Director – Karl Fahringer

Karl reported that the 2012 December meeting was GREAT! The gift basket raffle was a huge success. Those members who donated were thanked again (Carol and Gene Goch, Rick and Karen Owen, Anne and Karl Fahringer, Al and Betty Smith, Marty Hudspeth, Michele Newhouse, Mike and Judy Boucher, Shiela Hines, and Carol Winkie) and applause was given by the members in attendance. Today there will be a door prize wine basket, 50/50 prize, and gift raffle.

Board of Director – Jim Cope

Finance Committee

earlier report with finance (see page 1 and 2)

Historian

no report at this time

Faith

Trips

We are looking for suggestions, or ideas, for places to go as a group. Faith is the trip liaison. Please see her with any/all ideas. Faith stated that she as a list of responsibilities for trip planners. All moneys are to go directly to her, not the trip coordinator. Trip participants also have a sign off sheet to complete in order to go on trips with the Society. If you plan a trip, and do all the work yourself, your trip will be paid for by the Society. If you use a travel agent or bus agent, it will not!

Mike reported on the Oregon Trip in coming up June. Food forms will be mailed out for approval along with direction to those who are attending. There are over 50 people participating in the Oregon Trip. For 2014, Mike is looking at planning a Michigan trip where there are approximately 35 lights to see. Trips are fun! You get to see different parts of the country. Smaller trips or shorter trips are also good ideas. See Faith for the forms.

Old & New Business and For the Good of the Society

Website

Al gave a big THANK YOU to Howie to putting the Chesapeake Lighthouse Society trips on our web page. Howie then commented that the most hits on our web page is on the My Favorite Pictures link. Brett requested that if there are any suggestions, changes or ideas for the website, to please see Howie. We would like to have the website tailored to what the members want to see.

Finns Point

Finns Point now has a line number in our budget. They are selling the t-shirts we purchased and we recoup the profits. The lens is in a display case. The gift shop is furnished by the old Sandy Hook Gift Shop shelves and hangers since Sandy Hook Gift Shop, supplied by the Society, was closed. Finns Point will be holding publicized openings in the local paper, usually the 3rd weekend of the month since the third Sunday Paulsboro (Tinicum), Finns Point, and East Point. They were opened last weekend, and welcomed 44 guests to the location.

Note: East Point retained damage from Super Storm Sandy. The basement flooded, there is an oil tank in the marsh, the electric and heating were damaged. Damages total thousands of dollars.

Photo Contest

This year's winners will be chosen by the Board of the Society for a 2014 calendar. There are four categories, seasons. Members are to vote for their top

three favorites in each category. There will be six winners for each category and from those 24; the Board will pick the 12 to be in the calendar. Calendars will be available as soon as the June meeting. The Lighthouse Managers group was also approached about selling our calendars. Several of them expressed interest. They will purchase the calendars from us and then sell them at their locations. Note: The contest had 89 submitted photos by 21 participants.

Adjournment

The business meeting adjourned at 12:19. A motion was made by Al Smith and seconded by Rick Hodgman. All were in favor of adjournment. Lunch is on own and then the speaker, Super Storm Sandy discussion, photo contest winners, 50/50 and gift raffle will close out the time today.

Minutes submitted by:
Karen Owen, Recording Secretary, NJLHS

Super Storm Sandy Experience Discussion

A few members in attendance shared their experience with Super Storm Sandy. First, Doreen Berson shared for Mary Beth Doherty who could not be with us today since she was still working on her home. Doreen said that Mary Beth's home in Lavallette had more than 18" of water damage. It ruined everything. She lost all her furniture, pots, and pans. The entire house had to be gutted. The hardest thing was the officials not letting people in to see the damage. Not knowing what to expect the first week was hard, but she can now get in to the area and do.

Second, Rick Hodgman shared his experience at his house in Normandy Beach. His home was one block off the ocean. Seven houses used to be on that block, now two are gone, and others are broken and in half. He too had to wait a week to see the devastation. They were bused in like refugees in a war zone. There was over \$80,000 in damage on the first floor of his home, but the second floor was fine. He too has to gut the home and raise it as per FEMA's instructions. He will rebuild.

Next, Fred Becker, Jr. reported that in all of the reporting, nothing was ever said of the things that were the same. Barnegat was still standing! The press only reported on the disasters and not the good.

Bill Geilfuss then reported that there were 32 inches of water in the Brick Township Shore Acres area homes. They must rebuild, but must use FEMA and township standards. Unfortunately, neither organization has set the standards yet. It all seems political. He commented, "Sandy -1, Bill -0".

Finally, Brett Franks encouraged the members to e-mail the government, congress and senators, to have assistance given to these storm damaged areas and rebuild New Jersey. He also commented on how the press created a panic situation, especially in the area of Atlantic City, ("Boardwalk area destroyed") when it was not necessary.