

Minutes

15 March 2003 New Jersey Lighthouse Society General Meeting
At Audubon Park Community Hall

Meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by President Tom Laverty. The minutes from the December meeting were approved: Ray Vliet motioned to approve, Al Smith seconded.

Debbie Megonigal presented the Treasurer's Report. Approximately \$5,000 was received as a response to the letter Tom submitted with the membership renewals. Grace Schumacher motioned to approve the minutes, BJ Smith seconded.

Bill Volpe presented the Budget Report for 2003. A Budget Task Force has been set up to look at alternate ways of funding the Challenge event. Tony Sliwa recommended that the Budget Report be sent out to members prior to the March meeting so they have a chance to review/digest it. This will be taken under consideration. Steve Martorano motioned to approve the Budget as read. Budget was approved as read.

Tom Laverty presented the President's Report:

- A request was received from Avery Pt. Lighthouse for assistance with their fundings for restoration of their lighthouse. After discussion from the floor, it was decided that we would "pass the hat" and get donations from the membership. Rich Veit motioned to "pass the hat", Linda Pearson seconded and the motion was approved.
- Warner's print – The Breakers: Rosemary Dixon has some for sale at the meeting. His 90th birthday is coming up and the members can get his address at the membership table if they want to send him a card.

Yvonne Miller presented the Outreach 2003 Report:

- May 10 – Piney Pt. Lighthouse, Maryland
- March 22 - Suffolk County Lighthouse Day
- June 7 – Berkley County Park in Bayville
- August 2 – East Point Lighthouse Open House
- Sept 20-21 – Ocean County Baymen's Decoy Show

If anyone is interested in attending these outreaches, please contact Yvonne.

Yvonne Miller presented the Trip Report:

Nova Scotia Trip – for details, contact Carole DiNapoli

Staten Island mini bus tour – being planned for possibly November
(May 10th, Ft. Wadsworth 100th birthday open house.)

Betty Smith will talk about the Rhode Island trip.

MaryBeth Doherty presented the Membership Report:

Total members: 359 single, 295 Family (x 2) for a total of 949 members.

Members were reminded to please sign the book; 149 signed in so far today.

New members were asked to stand and be welcomed.

Yvonne Miller presented the Activities Report:

- Rhode Island trip: Betty Smith presented the itinerary for the Rhode Island trip in July. There is more information up front; you can sign up today.
- Hospitality: Betty requested help for Hospitality for the next meeting (June)
- Today's Speaker: Capt. Pat DeChirico from the Battleship New Jersey
- June Meeting: The June 21st meeting will be at Stony Pt. State Park in New York; direction will be on the web site as soon as possible; those who want to stay overnight, it's best to stay in Nanuet or Nyack; hospitality will be served, but you must bring your own lunch; we need volunteers with a van to bring the handicapped up the hill; there will be tours of the coast guard station and a speaker.
- September Meeting: The September 27th meeting will be at Pennsville H.S. in Pennsville, NJ; there will be a drawing for the preservation raffle and tours of Finns Pt. Lighthouse; bring your own lunch.
- December Meeting: Still looking for a place for the meeting/social.

Rich and Elinor Veit presented the report for Publicity/Raffle/Absecon:

- Elinor thanked everyone for photos from the Challenge.
- Volunteers are needed at Absecon Lighthouse.
- Absecon restoration: fence is going up, work is progressing; mid-May is target date for completion.
- Raffle: first meeting was held; tickets will be out by mid-May.

Rick Weber presented the Lighthouse Challenge Report:

- The committee met at Sandy Hook in January.
- Laura Portee is compiling all the comments from Challenge 2002.
- Publicity – we'll be contacting sister lighthouse associations in nearby states.
- This year there will be a site coordinator at each lighthouse.
- Volunteers must work a minimum of 5 hours to get a free t-shirt.
- Mike Grant is signing people up today to volunteer at the event.
- We're working with the task force to reduce costs.
- We're working with the Chesapeake Chapter so that participants who complete both Challenges will receive a special souvenir.
- Rick read off the names of the 8 Lighthouse finishers – prizes are from the various souvenir shops at the lighthouses.

Al Smith presented a report for the Photo Contest/Sandy Hook:

- Al welcomed everyone to Audubon Park.
- He presented the schedule for today's Annual Photo Contest.
- At Sandy Hook, there will be a clean-up/orientation/moving day in preparation for tours that begin April 5th. There is a sign-up sheet today, if anyone wants to sign up.
- Sandy Hook Keeper's House – Tom and Al have been meeting with the foundation to discuss the renovation.

Tom Laverty reminded everyone that they're looking for volunteers at Sandy Hook, Absecon and Tinicum lighthouses.

Pat Bando presented the Ways & Means report:

- T-Shirts and sweatshirts are on sale today.
- Harbor Lights collectibles will be auctioned off today.

Joe Guchek presented a report on the Beam:

- He apologized that some people have not received their Beam yet.
- Deadline is 7 weeks prior to the meeting; deadline for next Beam is May 3rd.
- Let Joe know if you need extra copies for an outreach program.

Dennis Whelan reminded everyone that there are 50/50s to buy and gave an update on the amount so far.

Rosemary Dixon gave a report on the Warner prints for sale.

New Business:

Dues Increase: The Budget Committee presented a recommendation to raise the dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for singles, \$20.00 to \$25.00 for families. Debbie Megonigal read the motion to increase the dues, effective October 2003. The motion will be read again at the June meeting and voted upon at that time. Joe Guchek asked about the benefit of having a paid lifetime membership (currently the lifetime memberships are only non-paying, honorary). Tom said it would not pay to do this and would end up costing the organization more.

Educational Kits: Bill Volpe said they are for sale - \$25.00.

Bill told everyone that he received an email from a boy in San Francisco, asking Bill for help on a Ship John Shoal report. The boy sent him the completed project and Bill put it on display today for everyone to look at.

Question from the floor on the status of the National Lighthouse Museum: Tom said that they're moving forward on the smallest building on the site; the Lightship Nantucket is now in Brooklyn.

There was a motion by Rick Weber to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Al Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Doreen Lagattuta