

New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting
March 20, 2004
Pennsville High School, Pennsville NJ

President Tom Laverty opened the meeting at 11:10 am with the pledge of allegiance. The minutes of the September 27th meeting at Pennsville High School were submitted for approval. Grace Schumacher made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Becky Colesar seconded the motion passed.

Treasures Report Debbie Megonigal

Total receipts \$21,307.16; total Disbursements \$4,892.67; Checking balance \$41,799.21; Preservation Fund is \$12,682.53; Memorial Fund is \$2,038.24 Money Market \$10,955.36. Sandy Hook Fund total receipts \$48.49; total disbursements \$4,672.90; balance \$9,571.22. Bill Geilfuss acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, Lou Colesar seconded, and the membership approved.

2nd Vice President Bill Volpe presented the 2004 budget to the membership for their approval. Designated fund balances December 31, 2003, Operating \$34,905; Sandy Hook \$32,212; Preservation \$14,212. The proposed 2004 operating budget is \$66,600; Sandy Hook \$30,000; and Preservation \$16,700. Bill made a motion to accept this budget as presented, all for, none against. This motion was approved.

Presidents Report Tom Laverty

- December was the first time in 11 years we had to cancel a meeting. Tom asked the membership if they had received notification concerning the cancelled meeting in time. Most people nodded their heads in a positive response. Tom also suggested our web site as a good place to check, also the NJLHS taped message; phone number in the Beam, or any of the officers listed in the Beam.
- Tom reported that he had the pleasure in November to speak at a national conference "So You Want to Own a Lighthouse?" in St. Augustine, Florida. He spoke on the topic of cooperative partnership between lighthouses and their local communities. One of the highlights for Tom was to speak to other lighthouse organizations about the NJLHS Challenge.
- Tom, along with the entire board, thanked Ray Vliet for his service on the board of trustee's as he moves on to other endeavors.
- Tuckerton Seaport is having tough times financially, and the newspapers are reporting about foreclosure and the bank calling in their loan. We as an organization are not in the position to help, but there is some good news. The bank has said publicly that they don't want to see the Seaport shut down, so there may be some way this may be resolved. The Seaport is trying to remain open.
- The new brochure for the Tinicum Lighthouse is out. NJLHS helped fund this project, an example of what our donations help do.

Officer and Committee Reports

Vice President Yvonne Miller as Programs Chair Programs thanked Al and BJ Smith for arranging this meeting. This meeting we have the general election along with the annual photo contest with speaker Ed and Ted giving tips on taking a better photo. Lunch is being made available by the ladies of the Audubon Park 4th of July Committee.

Yvonne explained that she set up the outreach display so that members could see what is taken to the various outreaches we do. Bill Volpe also set up a display of letters and model lighthouses build by a 5th grade class. He received these after he spoke to their class.

Programs

- June 19 Christmas in July, will be a picnic at the Abescon Lighthouse. We will have the yearly preservation raffle. Bring your our lunch and a Xmas ornament.
- October 2 is in the planning stage for the Lewes Delaware area.
- December 4th is still open.

Outreach

- May 1st & 2nd the Long Island Chapter of the US Lighthouse Society is holding their annual Suffolk County Lighthouse Day Festival at the Cedar Point County Park in East Hampton. It was a lot of fun last year. Volunteers are needed this year because that date is the date of our next board meeting so none of the board members will be available to attend.
- June 5th at the Berkeley Island County Park is an outreach, 10am to 4pm rain or shine. This park is near the causeway over to Seaside
- August 7th East Point Lighthouse.
- September 25 & 26 Ocean County Baymen's Decoy Show, Tuckerton. This show runs 8am to 5pm both days. We will be back at the school this year.

Trips

- Staten Island, April 17th, 2 mini-buses will leave Fort Wadsworth at 9:00am to visit the lighthouses of Staten Island. Nine seats are left.
- Nova Scotia; this trip is cancelled.
- A Boston area trip May 14 – 17 needs 4 more to break even 8 seats are available...

Membership- Mary Beth Doherty

- Membership: 279(x2) families 558; 324 single; total 882. The sign in for today's meeting is 1145.
- Renewals are still coming in.
- Free books from Kodak are available at the sign in table.

Publicity -Rich and Elinor Veit

- 114 mailings announcing this meeting were sent out.
- Absecon needs more volunteers at the lighthouse.

- Rich reported that the raffle is moving forward. The application for the raffle in Atlantic City is in the works
- Some of the prizes
 - 1) Gift certificate to Lighthouse Depot
 - 2) Saugerties stay
 - 3) Harbour Lights Challenge Set
 - 4) Digital print of Sandy Hook
 - 5) Delaware Bay boat trip for two

Lighthouse Challenge 2003-Rick Weber

- Challenge 2003 was another success
- Financially we broke even this year.
- Over 100 members volunteered an estimated 2200 hours
- 1149 people completed the Challenge, 534 were from out of state.
- 354 people completed both the NJLHS Challenge and Maryland's challenge.

Challenge 2004-Rick Weber

Personnel changes

- Doreen Lagattuta will chair this year's Challenge
- Rick Weber - coordinator, reporting to Doreen
- Barbara Pepe - volunteer coordinator
- Trish Wylupek and Michael Boucher - T-shirts
- Greg DiNapoli - graphic designer
- Laura Portee - brochure and poster distribution

Thank you to Mike Grant, Al Smith, Anne and Bill Volpe, who have decided to pass their duties on to other, as they were experts in their areas and we will still rely on their advice.

In the area of volunteers we will continue with the site supervisors, they have been extremely helpful and have handled many issues in the past. This year they will determine a maximum number of volunteers for each site and shift to ensure that everyone is kept busy and has a task to do. Once the maximum number for a shift/site is reached, no more will be accepted. Drop ins will not be accepted. Once again, we are requiring a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer participation to receive a t-shirt.

Sandy Hook – Photo Contest - Al Smith

- The Sandy Hook keeper's house is moving along. A fire code issue that has to be dealt with has slowed the work down.
- The exhibition design is in progress.
- As always volunteers are needed.
- Ed and Ted from Kodak have come as speaker on photography and 3 photos will be given a professional choice ribbon.
- Al thanked all those who helped with the photo registration.

Tom

Some thanks needed to be announced; first of all to Harry Megonigal for all his past efforts at the 50-50 raffle table. Harry is too ill to attend today so our best wishes are with him, thank you Brett and Judi Franks for stepping in for Harry. And to BJ Smith another big thank you for all the years as hospitality chair.

Ways and Means-Bob and Marion Hudspeth

- Pat and Ron have resigned from ways and means chair. Bob thanked them both along with Al and BJ Smith for getting them off on the right foot.
- They have a bunch of new items come back and take a look.
- More recipes are needed for the cookbook.

Newsletter-Joe Guchek – Editor of the Beam

- Joe apologized to any members who may have submitted an article that was not included.
- The next deadline for the Beam is 7 weeks prior to the next meeting, May 1. E-mail any articles to Njlhsbeam@prodigy.net or The Beam 16 Labakan Place Highland Park, NJ 08904.

Elections Board of Trustees

Bill Volpe, judge of elections, reported that the candidates for office were unopposed and there were no write in votes. Rich Veit moved. Ray Vliet seconded, directing the recording secretary to cast one ballot for the slate. Cindy Mitzen did so after the motion was approved and the following were duly elected, Jim Cope director; Doreen Lagattuta director; and Al Smith director; Betty Smith Corresponding Secretary.

Tom at this time also announced that Mike Grant was in the hospital. The board sends their best wishes along with nominating him for life time membership. Rich Viet made the nomination, Bill Geilfuss seconded, so moved. Steve Martorano made a motion to adjourn the meeting Al Smith seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Mitzen, Recording Secretary