

New Jersey Lighthouse Society
General Meeting
June 24, 2006
Fort Wadsworth Carriage House

Call to Order

President Tom Laverty opened the meeting at 11:06 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from March 24, 2006 General Meeting

The minutes of the March 24th meeting at Surf Side City Fire Hall were submitted for approval. One correction was noted: The misspelling of Joe Guchek's name (page 3, 3rd line of 1st full paragraph). Tom Laverty advised Joe Guchek that Laura Portée acting as Recording Secretary in Cindy Mitzen's absence would make the change.

Jim Cope made the motion to accept the minutes.

Joe Guchek seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: **Debbie Megonigal**

The Treasurer's report from Debbie Megonigal was as follows:

NJLHS Operating Account:

Balance Reported 3/24/06:	\$ 50,916.40	
Plus: Total Receipts	\$ 43,039.46	
Less: Total Disbursements	\$ 14,368.57	
Balance as of 6/24/06		\$ 79,587.29

Sandy Hook:

Balance Reported 3/24/06:	\$ 15,076.71	
Plus: Total Receipts	\$ 4,348.38	
Less: Total Disbursements	\$ 214.16	
Balance as of 6/24/06		\$ 19,210.93

Preservation Fund	\$ 21,729.77	
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,718.92	
Sandy Hook Money Market Account	\$ 986.41	

Grand Total		\$123,233.32
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Debbie pointed out that included in the total were funds earmarked as follows:

Lake Champlain Trip	\$ 18,000.00
Little Red Lighthouse Trip	\$ 4,020.00
(of which \$668.00 is profit)	
Challenge Grant Funds Received	\$ 8,000.00

Mike Boucher made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report.

Marion Hudspeth seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Host Site Introductions:

Tom Laverty introduced Steve Salgo, Park Ranger and Interpreter of Gateway National Recreation Area-Fort Wadsworth. Steve greeted the gathering and introduced the panel for the day's presentation: Lana, his "right-hand"; Maria Burks, Commissioner of Harbor Parks, a new position which is exploring boat rides of National Park sites in the harbor; Lt. Dmitri Delgado, Commander of MSST 91106, Commander of the Coast Guard boats currently patrolling the harbor; Martha LaGuardia of the Coast Guard and author and Jerry Robinson, Director of the National Lighthouse Museum.

Tom presented to the National Park at Fort Wadsworth a picture of a fireboat passing the Fort Wadsworth Lighthouse. The NJLHS Photo Contest award-winning picture was taken and donated by Judy Boucher. Steve graciously accepted the gift informing the membership that the picture would be on permanent display in the Visitor's Center.

President's Report: Tom Laverty **Sandy Hook**

Tom reported on the Keeper's House Dedication at Sandy Hook, which took place on June 10th. Tom along with Tom Hoffman, NPS, GNRA-Sandy Hook and Lou Venudo, NPS were the "content people", researching and writing the text for the exhibits. Included with the exhibits are numerous photographs donated by NJLHS members. The focus now is to move NJLHS's Sandy Hook gift shop back into the Keeper's house.

Nominating Committee

Tom introduced Laura Portée as the Nominating Committee chair. Laura and the committee will be responsible for presenting to the membership at September's meeting a slate of candidates for Board positions up for election in December.

Tom announced that he would be stepping down as President after 12 years due to increased professional commitments. As the By-laws of the Society allow, Tom has agreed to stay on as a Board Member to assist in the transition.

From the floor, Rich Veit congratulated Tom and thanked him for all that he had done for the Society. In addition, Rich made requested that the Nominating Committee consider the good, young members of the Society as potential candidates as they are its future.

Tom reiterated the rules regarding nomination: Once the Nominating Committee has presented its recommendations to the membership in September, nominations would be accepted from the floor of the membership. When the September meeting is adjourned, nominations are closed. Voting would then take place at the December meeting for the candidates nominated at the September meeting.

Laura announced the positions up for election: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, two Board member positions currently held by Bill Volpe and Brett Franks and Recording Secretary. Both Laura and Tom encouraged the membership to let Laura know if there were any suggestions for consideration by the Nominating Committee for these positions.

1st Vice President's Report: Yvonne Miller

As Yvonne was unable to attend this meeting, Renard Petronzio and Anthony Albence gave the reports for her committees.

Programs Renard Petronzio

September 30th Meeting:

- Maurice Township Public School (Rt. 47)
- Speaker Presentation
- Visit to the East Point Lighthouse
- 3 hour tour on the A.J. Meerwald; first-come, first serve @ \$20.00/person. A sign-up sheet was available in the Carriage House.

December 2nd Meeting:

- West Cape May Fire Hall
- Visit to Cape May Lighthouse
- Holiday Social still in the works; details to follow

Outreach Anthony Albence

Kickoff at Island Beach State Park was successful with a large turnout. Events coming up are:

August	East Point Lighthouse Open House Cape May County Historical Museum Clambake
September	Decoy Show, Tuckerton
October	Coastal Days

Trips Betty Smith

As Betty Smith was unable to attend this meeting, no report was given on Trips.

2nd Vice President's Report: Mary Beth Doherty

Membership

Members:	253 Single; 516 Family (258 x 2); 769 Total
In Attendance:	55 Members; 6 Guests; 61 Total 2 New Members

Website

Any updates/informational items for the Website are to be e-mailed to Mary Beth. The website is updated as needed.

Beam

John Ozment will design the next issue of the Beam. Any photos or articles are to be submitted by the deadline date of August 12th.

Misc

Mary Beth presented the Preservation Committee with a check from NELL (New England Lighthouse Lovers) in the amount of \$85.00 from the sale of Coast Guard T-shirts replicated and sold during the 2005 Hawaii trip. Because many of those who purchased the shirt were NJLHS members and also sent a donation for lighthouse preservation, NELL decided to split the profit from sales for preservation between the two groups.

Committee Reports

Education

Bill Volpe

Bill, who has taken over the weekday school and scout group tours at Sandy Hook, read a draft of an e-mail about a group of 3rd graders and adults from Oak Knolls School, Summit, NJ. With the assistance of a Lighthouse Education Kit purchased by their teacher, Kathy Maiello (a NJLHS member), they studied about lighthouses and were very well prepared for the tour. "Their knowledge and interest were astounding." The result was a feeling of great reward because "a Lighthouse kit in the hands of an interested teacher" can make such a difference.

Lighthouse Challenge

Doreen Lagattuta

- Recipient of Tourism Marketing Grant in the amount of \$8,000 due in large part the matching funds from the Fred Theis, John Mazza, Harry Megonigal and Bob Hudspeth Memorial Funds generously earmarked by the families for the Challenge.
- Brochures and posters designed by Greg DiNapoli. The initial distribution was completed June 23rd.
- Night Climbs added to the Challenge at Sandy Hook, Absecon, Cape May and Tinicum. These lighthouses will be open until 8:00 pm on Saturday, October 14th. Night Climb souvenirs are under consideration.
- Brett Franks and Greg DiNapoli are working on the souvenirs.
- Sign-up for volunteering is necessary each year. Volunteers are not automatically carried over from the previous year. See Brett Franks.
- Site Coordinators meeting is scheduled for October 7th at the Evesham Library. As the date gets closer, reminder notices will be sent.

Preservation

Brett Franks

- Check the website for update of Preservation activities and news.
- "Helping Hands" Committee being established to look for and coordinate members with skills to volunteer at lighthouses to clean up, spruce up, etc.
- Involved in the assessment of 13 ½ Fresnel Lenses in the state of New Jersey.
- Ludlum Beach Light: Working with the owner of the light and the town of Sea Isle City to relocate and preserve the light.
- Conover Beacon: Working with Middletown Township through Dennis Robbins.
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Ways & Means

Marion Hudspeth

- Jack Slavin's books that were donated to the Society are available.
- Internet Sales totaled \$770.00 for this quarter.

New Business

There was no new business raised from the floor of the membership.

Adjournment

At 12:06 pm, Mary Beth Doherty made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Debbie Megonigal seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Portée
Acting Recording Secretary