

PENFIELD REEF LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 30, 2011

4:00 pm

Second Floor Conference Room

Independence Hall

725 Old Post Road

Fairfield, CT 06824

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present: Jennifer Carpenter, David Agonis (via phone), Steve Elworthy, Paige Herman, Michael Jehle,

Members Absent: Dr. Henry Backe, Don D'Andrea, Bob Hatch, Pat Conley

Others Present: Sandye Mann, Sherri Steeneck, Linda Cote Crowley, Dave Peck, Bruce Williams, Jim Fox, Marcia Miner, Eileen Kennelly, Cheryl Lynch, Roxann D'Ambrosio, Ellen Thees, Dr. Evan Tilley, Mary Jo Cornell, Deanna Hoffman, Ken Jacobs

I. Call to Order

Chair Ms. Carpenter called the Meeting to Order at 4:03 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Jehle made the Motion to Approve the June 23 Minutes. P. Herman Seconded. All in Favor.

III. Discussion with Town's Risk Manager

Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Steeneck discussed insurance liability with Town of Fairfield Risk Manager Roxann D'Ambrosio with regard to the Town's coverage of volunteers at the lighthouse site. Ms. D'Ambrosio and Ms. Thees of Beardsley, Brown, and Bassett responded that, depending on the degree of injury, there is a Waiver of Liability to hold the Town Harmless. However, Town of Fairfield Assistant Attorney Eileen Kennelly added that a serious injury could become a court matter and the Town may be accountable.

IV. Update on Calls with General Services Administration and CT DEP

Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Steeneck, and Ms. Kennelly contacted General Services Administration Representative Kevin Legare and asked of the possibility of extending the application deadline. Mr. Legare said that the deadline is usually fixed, but GSA could delay the closing if a good faith effort is shown. The bidding timeframe will indicate the maximum number of days before closing.

V. Update on Information Received from US Coast Guard

Ms. Mann presented a summary of her contact with the US Coast Guard in New Haven. The US Coast Guard currently oversees the maintenance and operation of the light and foghorn automatically run by solar panels and back-up batteries. They hold the keys to the lighthouse and are available by contacting them to open the lighthouse for us. At this time, although they have shared the expense of installing safe docking at other lighthouses, the US Coast Guard is not interested in assisting with docking. A representative of the US Coast Guard from the New Haven Section was unable to attend due to shift changes.

VI. Preparation of July 6, 2011 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Mr. Sapone circulated a draft of the Charge for the proposed Penfield Reef LightHouse Preservation Committee and Ms. Carpenter presented the list of proposed members. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Board of Selectmen Meeting on Wednesday, July 6 to support the Penfield Reef LightHouse Preservation.

VII. Committee Goals

Town of Fairfield History Museum Center Executive Director Mike Jehle was 99% positive that the Board of Directors will support receipt of lighthouse donations via an escrow account in their 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, as well as displaying exhibits and items in their gift shop. The costs estimated to repair the lighthouse during an inspection held Monday, August 14, 2007 by town officials from Engineering, Building, and Public Works indicate the exterior of the building was in good condition, and once properly sealed, the interior rooms may be repaired as time and funds allow.

Initially, in order to raise approximately \$10,000 for the application bid quickly, Ms. Steeneck recommended contacting the family of Artist Bob Ledeaux for lighthouse artwork. She also suggested we host a Lighthouse Ball. Mr. Sapone added that we may want to have it at the Penfield Pavilion. A member suggested researching the Town Lighthouse banners to place them on poles along Boston Post Road. Mr. Williams offered boat tours around the lighthouse as a fund raiser, and for transportation for members planning to visit the site, as well as the Black Rock quarters for meetings. There were no responses from carriers interested in operating a cell tower from the lighthouse. Ms. Mann said that the US Coast Guard finds that communications accumulate static and poor reception along a plain of low level water. Ms. Crowley was appointed Recording Secretary. Ms. Miner reported that the members of the Land Acquisition Committee will give us a Letter of Support. Mr. Williams said that he will contact Principal John Curtis of the AquaCulture School in Bridgeport for a Letter of Support in partnering with special marine assignments in the lighthouse water.

VIII. New Business – None

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IX. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 4 pm in the second floor Conference Room in Independence Hall.

X. Public Comment –None

XI. Adjourn

Ms. Jehle made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm. Ms. Herman Seconded the Motion. All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cote Crowley
Recording Secretary