

PENFIELD REEF LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 28, 2011

4:00 pm

Second Floor Conference Room

Independence Hall

725 Old Post Road

Fairfield, CT 06824

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present: Sandye Mann, Jennifer Carpenter, Mike Jehle, Paige Herman, Dave Peck, Dr. Evan Tilley, Sherri Steeneck

Members Absent: Deanna Hoffman, Mary Jo Cornell, David Agonis, Pat Conley, Linda Crowley, Steve Elworthy, Bill Sapone

Others Present: Craig Smith, Hugh Dolan, Marcia Miner, Bruce Williams, Mike Tetreau

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Sandye Mann called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Jennifer Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2011. Mike Jehle seconded the motion. Ms. Carpenter made an amendment to remove Dr. Evan Tilley's name from the Members Absent section; the spelling of Dave Bahlman's name was corrected; the spelling of the word their was corrected in section IV; and Paige Herman's name was added at the end of the minutes to reflect she was the recording secretary. Ms. Mann seconded the amendment which carried unanimously. The main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

Selectman Sherri Steeneck said she spoke to Mary Donahue and Dave Bahlman from the Connecticut State Preservation Office and they said that they can't award grants if the federal government owns the lighthouse. Mike Jehle said he believes a match can be in-kind. He suggested the Committee submit grant applications at this time and it can always pull them if it isn't the highest bidder. Ms. Carpenter said that she was under the impression the Committee wasn't seeking town funds so she asked how funds could be matched by the Town. Ms. Steeneck said that the Committee can apply for any amount up to the grant amount and then try to match that amount. Mr. Jehle suggested another grant the Town could apply for.

IV. New Business

Ms. Mann moved this item before Old Business because First Selectman Mike Tetreau stopped by the meeting to give the Committee an update on a call he and Ms. Carpenter had with staff members from Senators Blumenthal and Lieberman's Offices and Congressman Himes office. Mr. Tetreau told the Committee that each legislator had received a letter from him on July 15, 2011 asking them to help the Town stop the auction process and seek to revert back to the original conveyance process that involved transferring the lighthouse at no cost to the appropriate owner. Brian Williams said that he was told by Beacon that because they had said they would build a dock to give public access to the lighthouse that helped them become the owner. Dr. Evan Tilley said it would be difficult to build a dock.

IV. New Business

Dave Peck said that the insurance carrier had a concern with building a dock when the town applied for the lighthouse in 2008. First Selectman Tetreau said the good news is that no matter whom the owner is in the auction, the lighthouse can't be knocked down and it has to be maintained according to certain standards. First Selectman Tetreau suggested the Committee may want to obtain the bottomlands to help put the Town in control.

Ms. Carpenter questioned if the Town leasing the bottom lands would make us liable.

Mr. Jehle suggested obtaining a copy of the original conveyance of the bottom lands.

Ms. Herman made a motion to ask Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Kennelly to move forward on the Town obtaining the bottom lands. Mr. Jehle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

V. Old Business

a. Discussion and Review of Fundraising Status And Accounting

Ms. Mann said that on the day of the Grand Opening of Penfield Pavilion, some Committee members will be handing out information on donating to the lighthouse. Ms. Mann showed the Committee a draft copy and members made suggested changes. Ms. Carpenter suggested the Committee send a form letter to local organizations that may be interested in making a donation to the lighthouse. She mentioned some organizations and volunteered to draft a letter. Ms. Herman said she already sent such a letter to the FBRA.

The Committee discussed holding a fundraiser and silent auction on September 18 at 5 pm at Penfield I, if the space is available. Ms. Carpenter suggested using the Coast Guard Auxiliary building if Penfield I is not available.

Selectman Steeneck said she received an email from Hugh Dolan who attended the meeting and said he is trying to get Whole Foods to have a day dedicated to having 5% of purchases go to support the lighthouse. He will speak to Trader Joes. Mr. Jehle asked Hugh Smith to donate a poster of the lighthouse to help raise funds. He gave a quick overview of the management agreement between the Town and History Center explaining how historic properties are maintained. He said an addendum could be made to add the lighthouse.

b. Review and Status of Web Site and Other Promotional Materials

Mr. Peck reported that his facebook page on the lighthouse has 243 friends.

VI. Public Comment-None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter, Acting Secretary

Linda Cote Crowley , Recording Secretary