

St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees Meeting
May 14, 2012
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order @8:30 a.m. by President Barbara McWilliams with the following Board Members present: Pat Friend, John Madel, Eleanor Slater, Dale Springer, George Kennett, Lynn Fitrell, and Susan Gough.

The following members were excused: James Banagan, Helen Dorsey.

Laura Wigginton submitted a Letter of Resignation.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

Museum Director Debra Pence was in attendance and introduced the new Department of Recreation & Parks Director Brian Loewe. Debra also introduced special guest Judith Blanton who donated property at the east end of Lighthouse Rd., near Route 249 for an overflow parking lot (2.8 acres).

Minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting were approved after a motion by John Madel to accept.

OLD BUSINESS

Debra reviewed her March report. The Water Taxi is a big issue now. The vessel must be tested by June 1 to meet USCG standards. A provisional use permit is currently in place and being used.

NEW BUSINESS

Debra reported on the April activities. Attendance figures continue to rise. Budget preparations are winding down with grant money for the Piney Point Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters being sought to repaint and restore woodwork. The repaint will be whitewash.

Debra also stated that the House & Garden Tour included 68 visitors to SCIM & Lighthouse.

Director Loewe reported that the Capital Improvement process is being done at this time.

Dale Springer reported that the next meeting of the "Friends" will be held on May 16 @ SCIM.

ST. CLEMENTS HUNDRED

John Madel reported that a Volunteer Night was held recently @ Society Hill to recruit new volunteer Docents for the Lighthouse. He stated that it takes 2-3 volunteer Docents to staff the Lighthouse on days that it is open to the public. John provided St. Clements Hundred membership pamphlets to those interested.

John also reiterated that the maintenance/storage building on the island needs to be relocated to higher ground due to several incidents of flooding.

Debra gave a brief history of the St. Clements Hundred including their responsibility for upkeep/maintenance of the Island, construction and upkeep of the Lighthouse, and enhanced visitors experiences.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Debra reviewed the upcoming events in the agenda and commented on a recently completed activity - The Season Open House that was held @ PPLH on May 12-13. Attendance was 260-300 on the 12th, with a few less attending on the 13th. This event will be held in June next year to avoid Mother's Day conflicts and an event held @ Calvert Marine Museum

On June 9, St. Clements Island History & Heritage Day, the Lighthouse will be open and demonstrations will be offered. The Friends will rent a larger vessel to help move visitors to/from Island.

Tickets for the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival go on sale June 1. 800 tickets generally sellout within 15 days or so! The staff is soliciting businesses to sponsor this event.

John Madel suggested that the new video be shown at the next Board of Trustees meeting to be held @ SCIM.

Dale Springer announced that his retirement from NU STAR after 42 years @ end of May. He WILL remain on the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, John Madel moved to adjourn, second by Dale Springer with adjournment @8:55 a.m. Immediately following the meeting, a tour was offered of the PPLH & Historic Park to see Capital Improvements.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS

July 9 @ SCIM

September 10 @ Potomac Building Rm. 14

November 12 @ Potomac Building Rm. 14

Respectfully submitted,

George Kennett
Secretary