

## SPLKA Annual Meeting

September 16, 2017

### Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

A business meeting of the Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers' Association was held September 16, 2017, at 7:15 PM, at the Greystone Center, Holiday Inn Express, US 10 & 31, Ludington, Michigan. The meeting was preceded by a social time and dinner, catered by Gloria's Catering. Before dining, a prayer of thanks for the meal was offered by Peter Manting, Executive Director. Tables were decorated with votive-lit glass lighthouses, surrounded by gold tulle. Since a quorum was established, the business of the meeting proceeded.

### Welcome/Minutes

Kirk Lindquist, President, welcomed those in attendance. He thanked the staff, in particular Cherie Hockenberger and Rachel Bendele, for their efforts in organizing the events of the evening.

He then gave an update on the membership of the Board. Due to family matters, Sue Ann Schnitker, President, resigned as a board member in the fall of 2016. Sheila Meeusen agreed to remain on the board as secretary rather than resigning at the end of the year. Kirk then assumed the office of President. In the spring of 2017 Lenore Janman resigned due to medical reasons and she was replaced by Bill McBeth. Kim McDaniel and Roger Pashby were introduced as Board members. Two others, Jeff DuPuis and Ted Robinson, were not in attendance. Also, Sheila Meeusen was ill and unable to come tonight.

Kirk highlighted the minutes of the September 17, 2016 meeting, copies of which had been distributed to those present. Nancy Hallenbeck moved that they be approved. Motion passed.

November 1, 2017, there will be a 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Big Sable Lighthouse.

Kirk then highlighted the major projects to be pursued in the coming year:

- Rust on the cladding on the Big Sable Lighthouse Tower will be repaired.
- Plaster inside the tower at Little Sable Lighthouse will be repaired.
- The exterior of the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse will be painted.
- The roof on the white River Light Station will be replaced.

- A Breezeway will be built at Little Sable Point Lighthouse.
- Historic Structure Reports will be sought for all lighthouses except Little Sable, which has already been obtained.
- Big Sable Lighthouse will be reclad.
- A garage or generator building will be built at Big Sable.

## Financial Update

Roger Pashby, Board Treasurer, assisted by Carol Cooper, Bookkeeper, reported that the association is in a good financial position, with increases in assets, revenues and net income. There have been 413 TREX boards sold at Big Sable and 31 at Little Sable. He reported the following net income amounts for the past 5 years:

2012	\$259,211
2013	\$344,925
2014	\$356,593
2015	\$329,230
2016	\$325,425

Although tower tours are down, currently receipts are trending up over last year.

Our total assets increased by \$11,000 in the past year. We now have \$132,000 in the Mason County Community Foundation, with \$54,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund, which provided the funding for the new roof at Big Sable Point Lighthouse.

Roger thanked all volunteers for their time working at our four lighthouses.

## Director's Report

Peter Manting drew attention to documents available for perusal by those present:

- The 990 Financial Statement
- Michigan Blue magazine, which featured an article on our association and interviews with keepers

- A supplement to the London Times which ranked Ludington State Park and Big Sable Point Lighthouse as the fourth best place to visit in Michigan

Peter reported that he has now been the Executive Director for over four years and he thanked the staff (years of service with SPLKA in parentheses): Matt Varnum (5) WRLS curator, Jim Hardie (3) Maintenance Supervisor, Rachel Bendele (3) Volunteer Coordinator and Gift Shop Manager (replacing Priscilla McBeth), Carol Cooper (2) Bookkeeper, Cherie Hockenberger (3) Executive Assistant and three summer interns Mackenzie Brandel (2) WRLS, Parrish Terburgh and Misty Adams who split time between LSP and LNBL. He also thanked Brenda Glerum for her help with the painting of the new office space.

The winter speaker series, in cooperation with the Port of Ludington Museum, attracted an average of over 60 attendees at each of the three presentations.

This year another 10,000 Activity Books were printed, bringing the total to 45,000 distributed to youth visitors.

Maintenance projects accomplished in the last year included a new \$30,000 roof at BSP, exterior paint touch-up at BSP and LNBL, solar panels at LNBL, shoring up the basement and replacing the floors at the LSP house, benches at the LSP grounds, and air conditioning and renovation to the workshop behind WRLS. The latter project was aided by a donation of \$27,000 by the Friends of WRLS.

The Michigan Lighthouse Festival was held here in Ludington in August and we are looking forward to 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and Halloween events on October 28 and November 1.

As for maintenance projects for the coming year, new exhibit space will be opening at WRLS. Also, applications are being made for grants to finance the Historic Structures Report for BSP, brass port hole windows for LNBL, and Trex decking at LSP.

## Bylaw Changes

Marsha Martin moved that changes be made to the Association Bylaws so that they will read as listed below. All were passed unanimously.

- Article IV 2 H Three unexcused absences from regular scheduled Board meetings during a given calendar year may be deemed cause for removal from the Board.
- Article IV 2K SPLKA staff members are not eligible to serve as members of the Board of Directors during their terms of employment.

- Article IV 4D Notice of all special meetings of the Board of Directors (starting time, date, place and purpose) shall be provided to all Board members not less than five days prior to the meeting.
- Article VII 7 A copy of the year-end financial statements for the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association shall be posted on the Association website by the end of the second quarter of the subsequent fiscal year and made available to the general membership at the annual membership meeting.
- Article VIII These by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by a vote of five members of the Board of Directors, but shall not be effective until approved at a meeting of the general membership.
- Article IX The Board of Directors may, if it deems necessary and appropriate, convene a meeting to consider the voluntary or involuntary dissolution of the Association. An affirmative vote of five members of the Board of Directors shall be necessary to approve a motion to dissolve the Association. Such a motion shall be presented to the general membership for its approval.

## Board Members

Sheila was again thanked for her service as Secretary for the Board of Directors.

Jim Hardie moved that Bill Mc Beth and Bob Baltzer be elected as new member of the Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.

## Shining Light Award

Peter Manting explained that the purpose of the Shining Light award is to honor and recognize someone who has made an outstanding contribution in helping SPLKA fulfill its mission to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our lighthouses accessible. This year's recipient is Dick Smith, who made the saving of Big Sable Lighthouse from the ravages of neglect and Mother Nature a Labor of Love. Peter read tributes from former director Mary James, and from BMC David Karpin, President of the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy. Many of Dick's family were present to see him receive the award and a standing ovation from those present. Peter presented him with a picture of Big Sable Lighthouse shining brightly, taken by Todd Reed and a book written by Todd and Brad Reed, Wednesdays in the Mitten.

## Program

Peter introduced Mr. Bill Lucas, trumpet player in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Professor at the University of Michigan. He started the Michigan Lighthouse Legacy Project after photographing many Michigan lighthouses. Combining these with his musical abilities he has written brass fanfares to match each unique structure. This project is divided into three phases:

- Phase 1 is to record fanfares to match the lighthouses. He has recorded 40 fanfares so far, with an estimated 20 more by the end of the year. They are available as YouTube videos.
- Phase 2 is the production of CD's, two performances at or near the lighthouses and a traveling museum. He will make these CD's available for us to sell at our gift shops or to distribute as we choose.
- Phase 3 is for fully-funded concerts at locations near the lighthouses featured.

The advantages for SPLKA include not only the publicity and personalized fanfare, but also the CD's, profit from the sale of them, autographed copies of the fanfares to be auctioned or given as gifts, credits on pages with website addresses, keeper interviews incorporated with this publicity and possible summer performance venues in our area.

Bill played us a fanfare and received a standing ovation. Peter presented him with a framed picture of our four lighthouses taken by Todd and Brad Reed.

## Adjournment

Kirk announced that next year's meeting would be held on September 15, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Mitchell

Secretary Pro Tem