

Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center

“Preserving our Maritime Heritage”

Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2012

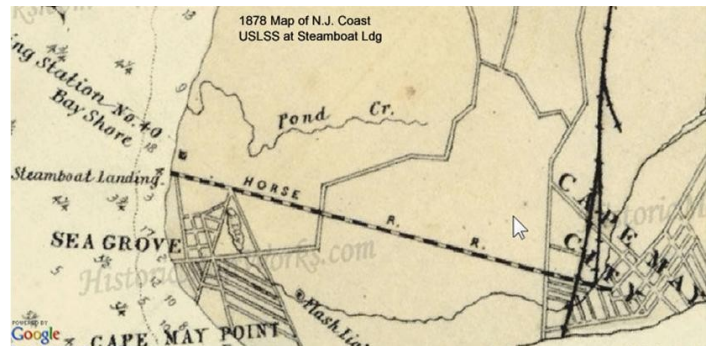
Maritime Museum Update:



The Maritime Museum’s 1876 Life-Saving Station reconstruction project near the Old Steamboat Landing Site continues to gain support and is getting close to the final hurdle! Volunteer Site Planner; Gary Thomas of Thomas Amey Shaw Surveyors, prepared a Site Plan & Survey that was included in the initial NJ DEP F&W Memorandum requesting the reconstruction be permitted at the site. The Memorandum was submitted by Supervisor David Golden to NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife Director Chanda. We were delighted to learn that Director

Chanda has agreed to sign the Application for Permitted Use. The application will be sent to the NJ DEP Bureau of Land Use Regulators. Gary Thomas (Thank You Gary!) is also preparing the Draft Application. Enhancements to the former Magnesite Plant include removal of concrete debris, restoration of the dunes, removal of the derelict inflow pipe and pilings, adding a nature trail, expanding the much needed parking area and providing handicap accessible restroom facilities.

Recall; the proposed site is near the old Steamboat Landing where the station was originally moved from the Philadelphia World’s Fair Exposition in 1877 (see photo).



Norris Clark and the Bayshore Heritage Byway are proposing to include this important part of our history on the trail.

Township of Lower Council formally approved supporting the reconstruction project and have written a letter of endorsement. Other endorsement letters include U.S. Congressman Frank Lo-Biondo, NJ State Senator Van Drew and USCG Historian’s Office Director, Dr. William Thiesen. Cape May County Freeholders passed a resolution in support of the project!

The (2) Vintage Monomoy Life Saving Boats; planned for display and re-enactments at the Station are well on their way to being restored by the Maritime Museum’s Boat Restoration Team headed by George Loos. Nantucket Life Saving Museum challenged us to a rowing contest.

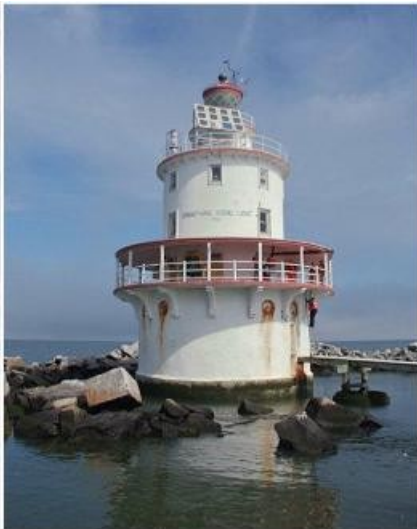
Maritime Museum Update continued:

The Application for Stewardship of the Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse submitted to the U.S. National Park Services back in December of 2011 was very well received. The Park Service complemented us on our overall Master Plan; but suggested we fine tune our Financial and Succession Plans. Under the guidelines of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000; applicants need to demonstrate that they have a Plan to maintain the Light in perpetuity. In preparing the revised application we were fortunate to enlist the aid of the United States

Lighthouse Society who provided actual Income and Expense data for a similar Lighthouse Preservation Project; as well as a recommendation to follow the Thomas Shoal Lighthouse Succession Plan. The City of Annapolis took ownership of the Lighthouse with a long term lease to the non-profit Restoration Group. We proposed this solution to The Township of Lower Council. Their response and the response from the community was overwhelming supportive! An Ordinance sponsored by Councilman Glenn Douglass and Township Manager Michael Beck authorizing the Township take ownership of the Brandywine Lighthouse should we be successful in our application was unanimously approved. The Ordinance includes a long term, no cost lease agreement with the Maritime Museum. The Museum would be responsible for all Preservation, Maintenance and Operations.

George Loos hand delivered the revised application on August 6th.

(Thanks George!). We're keeping our fingers crossed and are anticipating a decision sometime in the Fall.



The Book we are writing entitled “Cape May County’s Maritime Heritage” is due to be submitted to Arcadia Publishing this winter. Our hard working Team includes Ed Conrow, Rob Griffith, Scott Griffith; Kevin and Sandy Maloney (Chair) and Kate Nolan.

Our planned Spring / Summer Lecture Series was postponed due to the unavailability of a Lecture Hall and other higher priority Projects.

Villas Librarian, Local Maritime Subject Matter Expert and Cape May Maritime Museum Director of Research; Ed Carson was successful in acquiring a beautiful display case that will highlight our rich maritime heritage. Wayne Whalen has lent the Library some of his vintage photos and a model of an east coast dredger built here at Schellinger’s landing by local ship-builders Harry Mogck and Tony Cirrincione.

Recent events included participating in the Friends of the Hereford Lighthouse “National Lighthouse Day” Celebration on August 7th. On this day in 1789, Congress appropriated funds for the establishment and support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys and public piers, paving the way for the construction of lighthouses in the United States to provide safety and guidance to ships at sea.

The keynote speaker was Ambassador & former Congressman William J Hughes; sponsor of the Bill designating August 7th as National Lighthouse Day. Other speakers included US Congressman Frank LoBiondo, USCG Commander Captain William Kelly, NJ Lighthouse Society President, Brett Franks and our good friend Commander Timothy Dring (US Navy Ret). Recall; Tim is guiding us in the faithful execution of the Monomoy Boat Restoration and the Centennial Life Saving Station Reconstruction.

On August 25th and 26th the Maritime Museum participated in the Historic Cold Spring Village Seafarers Week-end. Special thanks to George Loos for bringing one of the Monomoy Life Saving Boats. It was a smashing hit. Pirate “Bloody Will”, with help from some of his mates captured our vessel (that’s what pirates do) and did a terrific rendition of the sea shanty “What do you do with a drunken sailor” from the bow. Check out the Facebook video... lots of Fun! Special thanks to Annie Salvatore for the invitation and continued support!

Thanks also to our Local Newspaper Reporters who continue to be generous and supportive; especially Cape May Star & Wave’s Christopher South & Cain Chamberlain, Jack Fichter of the Herald , Rich Degener at the Atlantic City Press and Mary Linehan of the Gazette.

Should you have any comments, questions or simply would like to know more about a particular activity please contact Kevin @ (609) 412-1250

Fair Winds;

Kevin J. Maloney, President

The Maritime Museum needs Members and Volunteers for Event Planning,
Research, Marketing, Grant Writing and Boat Restoration

Please call Sandy @ (609) 338-3133