

Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center

“Preserving our Maritime Heritage”

Newsletter

Winter 2013

Maritime Museum Update:

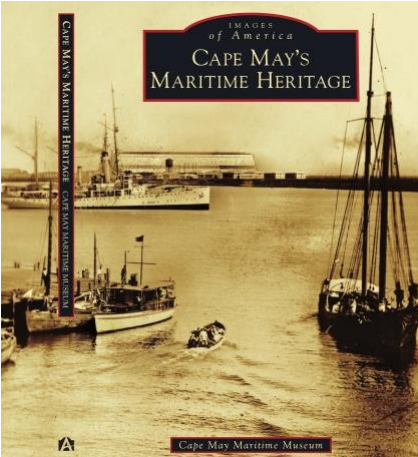


The Maritime Museum’s Application for stewardship of the historic Brandywine Shoal Light Station in collaboration with the Township of Lower was not recommended for approval by the US Department of Interior, US National Park Service. Under the plan; Township of Lower would have been the owners by deed. The Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center; under a long term lease, would have been responsible for the Preservation, Maintenance and Use of the Lighthouse. Periodic reports would have been submitted to the Township. The Maritime Museum was also planning to partner with the Hereford Lighthouse and the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association to restore the Light to a moment in time when she was manned. We were all very disappointed in the recommendation. The Maritime Museum has requested an Administrative Review to ensure the process was followed.

In other more positive news! We were really excited to learn that the NJ DEP Application for Land Use to reconstruct the beautiful 1876 Centennial Life Saving Station at the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area has been signed off by NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife Director Dave Chanda. This would not have been possible without the support of NJ DEP Superintendent, Dave Golden and Site Planner Gary Thomas (Thomas*Amey*Shaw); whom we will be indebted to.



The Youth Boat Building Outreach Program has been kicked off with plans to build a ‘St-Ayles’ Scottish Designed Skiff. Meetings with Lower’s Regional High School Faculty are underway. The vision is that the Maritime Museum will provide the Boat Plans, Molds and Material; as well as the Technical Guidance in building wooden boats. Regional will provide the workshop, the Instructors and Student Apprentices.



The Book we are writing; entitled “Cape May’s Maritime Heritage” is due to be submitted to Arcadia Publishing this summer. Scott Griffith (Thank You Scott!) has stepped up to help complete the book. The book is a result of extensive research and interviews with local families and historians. The influences of war, weather (hurricanes), economic opportunity (rum running), commercial fishing, recreation, technological advances in boat building, transportation and communications. A fascinating look at the shipwrecks off our shore is also included.

Last years Summer Lecture Series was postponed due to the unavailability of a Lecture Hall and other higher priority Projects. This year seems to be unfolding in a similar fashion; with the exception of our good friend ‘Bart Malone’ and CMMMEC Board Member ‘Brian Sullivan’ who will be providing a ‘Night with the Divers’ Lecture hosted by the Cape May Forum.

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 continues to be used to highlight our rich maritime heritage. Brian Sullivan donated some of his treasures for display that created some interest by local Youth to pursue Scuba diving.



Monomoy Boat Restoration: Recent events included an Open House at the new Monomoy Boat Restoration Workshop on Sunset Blvd in Cape May. Fourteen Traditional Small Craft Association Wood Boat Builders attended with great support and enthusiasm. George Loos should be commended for a job well done in retrofitting the workshop and hosting the event. Our good friend Commander Timothy Dring (US Navy Ret) is guiding us in the faithful execution of the Monomoy Boat Restoration and the Centennial Life

Saving Station Reconstruction. Detailed Drawings of the original boats were on display. The boats will be used for re-enactments and display at the 1876 Life Saving Station.

Special Thanks to all our Volunteers, to the Township of Lower Council Mayor Beck, Deputy Mayor Clark, Councilmen Douglass, Conrad & Neville; as well as Manager Michael Voll who continue to offer terrific support to the Maritime Museum.

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