

Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center

“Preserving our Maritime Heritage”

Newsletter

Fall 2013/Winter 2014

Maritime Museum Update:

The Application for a Land Use Permit to reconstruct the historic and beautifully architected 1876 Centennial Life Saving Station at the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area has still not been approved by NJ DEP Land Use Regulators due to a change to the proposed parking lot



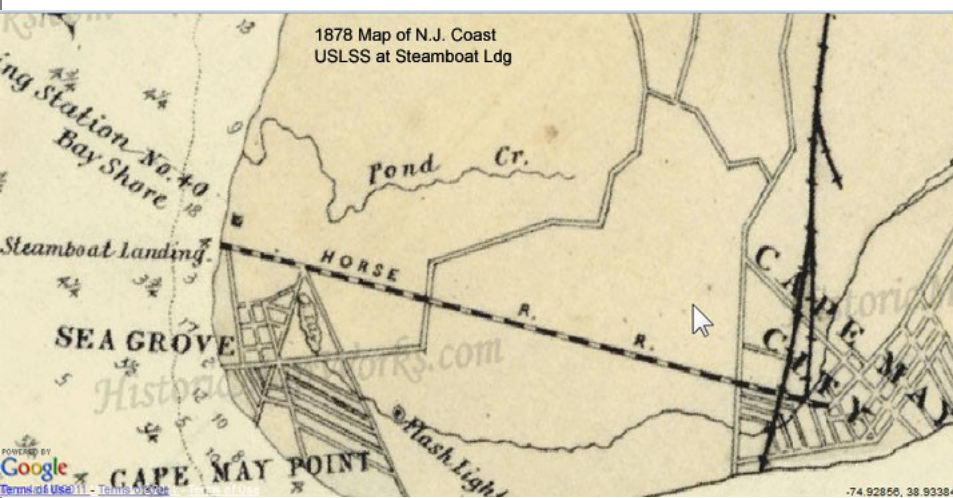
location. The new parking location needs to be assessed for endangered and threatened species. We were now hoping to begin construction in the third quarter of 2014 with a completion date to coincide with the 100 YEAR Anniversary of the Life Saving Service evolving into the modern U.S. Coast Guard. We continue to receive support from our Local Leaders, NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife Superintendent, Dave Golden, Architect Jim Lindemon, Site Planner Gary Thomas (Thomas*Amey*Shaw), CM Bird Observatory's Mike Cerew and the U.S. Coast Guard. A “Friends of the 1876 Life Saving Station and Park” Committee has

been established to help make this important part of our local heritage a reality. Model Builder, Bob Stork is well on his way to creating a highly detailed 1/2” scale model of the Station. Recall;

the proposed site is near the Old Steamboat Landing near where the original Station #40 was located (see map).

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.

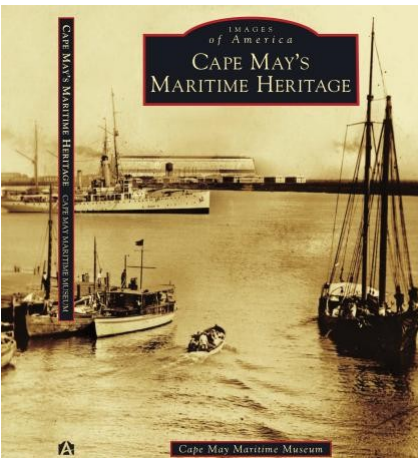


Other endorsement letters include U.S. Congressman Frank LoBiondo, NJ State Senator Van Drew, the Hume Family (Neighbors) and USCG Historian's Office Director, Dr. William Thiesen. Cape May County Freeholders passed a resolution in support of the project!



The Youth Boat Building Outreach Program has been kicked off and construction of the ‘St-Ayle’s’ Scottish Designed Skiff at Lower Cape Regional High School has STARTED! Teacher; Mathew Suter is providing the instruction to the Student Apprentices with support from Superintendent of Schools Christopher Kobik and Director of Curriculum Joe Castellucci. The Maritime Museum provided the financing for the first Kit; which

includes the plans, mold and materials. Maritime Museum’s Director of Boat Building and Restoration George Loos with his team are providing the Technical Guidance in building this beautiful wooden boat.



The Book we are writing; entitled “Cape May County’s Maritime Heritage” has been submitted to Arcadia Publishing and is in production with a publishing date scheduled for the Spring of 2014. Maritime Museum Administrative Director Sandy Maloney completed the book with terrific support from Scott Griffith (Thank You Sandy & Scott!). 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.

Monomoy Boat Restoration: George Loos continues to make great progress in the restoration of the Maritime Museum’s Monomoy Boat Restoration at the Workshop on Sunset Blvd in Cape May. George is joined by regulars Ron Heron, Paul Hurd, Dan Laughlin and Ed Johnson. A number of US Coast Guard Staff men and women have also joined in the restoration effort. All new ribs were steamed and installed. Chuck Prichard provided the copper rivets and use of his planner. Maritime Museum Board Member Brian Sullivan is storing material and also providing the use of his workshop. Our good friend Commander Timothy Dring (US Navy Ret) continues to provide guidance in the



faithful execution of of the Monomoy Boat Restoration and the Centennial Life Saving Station Reconstruction. Detailed Drawings of the original boats are on display. The boats will be used for re-enactments and display at the 1876 Life Saving Station.

Dr. William (Bill) Thiesen; Director U.S. Coast Guard Historians Office has been instrumental



in the planned acquisition of the U.S. Coast Guard Motor Life Boat CG36538. The Maritime Museum is planning to restore this very impressive part of our vintage fleet. CG36538 was operational in Ocean City, NJ in the mid 1950's. Maritime Museum Metal Shipwright Volunteer Wayne Whalen will be joining George Loos in this challenging restoration effort! These Motor Life Boats were powered by GM 471 diesel engines. They were self bailing and self righting. (pictured is fully restored CG36500)

The Maritime Museum's Application for stewardship of the historic Brandywine Shoal Light House 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 Maritime Museum was planning to restore the Light to a moment in time when she was manned. We were all very disappointed in the recommendation; but wish Jeff Stewart all the best in preserving and maintaining this National Treasure.

Villas Librarian, Local Maritime Subject Matter Expert and Cape May Maritime Museum Director of Research; Ed Carson continues to provide interesting displays to highlight our rich maritime heritage.

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

Thanks also to our Local Reporters who continue to be generous and supportive; especially Cape May Star & Wave's Christopher South & Cain Chamberlain, Jack Fichter of Lower Township, 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 Maloney, President @ (609) 412-1250 **Fair Winds!**