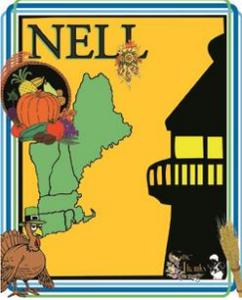


CHAPTER CHATTER



November/December



Happy Thanksgiving - Happy Hanukah - Merry Christmas

Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate & You 2019

Will be in Boston visiting the Lightship Nantucket LV-112 on Sunday, January 13, 2019.

NELL Spring Weekend 2019

Save the date Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May

It is time to renew your NELL membership dues for 2019.

Your membership runs from January 1 through December 31, 2019.

If you plan to attend LHHCY (Lighthouse Hot Chocolate and You) your dues must be paid by December 31, 2018. Single membership is \$20 and dual membership is \$30.

Make out your check to "NELL" and send it to: Kathy Santucci, 38 Lime Kiln Rd., Tuckahoe, NY 10707. If you would like to pay your NELL dues by PayPal, click on the link below and follow the instructions.

<http://www.newenglandlighthouselovers.org/membership-form/>

If your address or email has changed, please notify me until the end of December 2018.

Anthony Savino will be taking over Membership responsibilities on or about January 1, 2019. It has been a pleasure being the Membership Chair for the past 11 years!

Thank you - Walt Mills, Membership

Meet the new Mr. & Mrs, NELL



Congratulations to Walt Mills and Carolyn Carbone the 2018 Mr. & Mrs. Nell.

These are the title holders from previous years

1999	-	Penny Patch
2000 - Ron Drummer	-	MJ Foster
2001 - Walt Mills	-	Shirin Pagels
2002 - Fred Thumm	-	Arlene Pregman
2003 - Henry Winkleman	-	Carolyn Carbone
2004 - Bob Taylor	-	Arlene Winkleman
2005 - Norm Bosse	-	Cyne Bosse
2006 - Anthony Savino	-	Pat Bandoek
2007- Lee Hall	-	Linda Graham
2008 - Tom Pregman	-	Kathy Santucci
2009 - Ron Foster	-	Nancy Satkowski
2010 - Frank Carbone, Jr	-	Ellen Scott
2011 - Tom Kenworthy	-	Lynne Kerber
2012 - Ron Bandoek	-	Lynne Kerber
2013- Ron Bandoek	-	Judy Hall
2014 - Doug Scott	-	Hilari Seery
2015 - John Donovan	-	Ellen Granoth
2016 - Bill Kent	-	
2017 – Greg fitzgerald	-	Sandi Peterson

Lighthouses in the News

New London Ledge



A Superior Court judge has sided with the New London Maritime Society in what has been a years long struggle to reopen the historic New London Harbor Light to the public.

A written decision by New London Superior Court Judge Kimberly Knox reverses a 2015 decision by the city's Zoning Board of Appeals that upheld a cease-and-desist order and barred public tours of the Pequot Avenue lighthouse. The decision is being hailed as a win by both sides.

While it overturns the ZBA decision, it also appears to curtail the maritime society's future plans by limiting activity to "small guided tours of the lighthouse upon request."

Knox ruled that the New London Maritime Society's use of the lighthouse should be consistent with its historic use: infrequent and small-scale visits guided by a lighthouse keeper who lived on site during a time that predated the local zoning regulations enacted in 1928. Knox remanded the matter back to the ZBA for determination of the extent of tours.

New London Maritime Society President Edward J. Cubanski III declined immediate comment on the Oct. 2 ruling because, he said, he was awaiting word on whether the city plans to appeal. Cubanski was elected president in December 2016 at the height of a sometimes contentious battle with neighbors and the city over use of the Harbor Light.

Attorney Jeffrey Londregan, who represented the ZBA in the case, said his recommendation to the ZBA will be to not appeal. "I think it was a resounding victory for the city," Londregan said. "The judge basically said the public tours and regular hours of operation and intensity the maritime society was putting on the property was not a pre-existing nonconforming use. The judge said all of that should stop. The only thing permitted is informal tours that were historically offered prior to 2009, when the (maritime society) purchased the property."

The maritime society, the owner of three lighthouses, has argued that public tours of the lighthouse, albeit infrequent and on a small scale, have been allowed since the 1800s.

Knox agreed that the historical use of the lighthouse should continue as a valid nonconforming use in a residential neighborhood. The cease-and-desist order issued in 2015 that completely denies access was, however, "an unlawful restriction on the plaintiff's use of the lighthouse," she wrote.

"It's definitely a win compared to where we were prior to the decision," said attorney John Casey, who represents the maritime society. "The fact that the public can be brought in for tours is definitely something the maritime society is happy about."

Knox, however, did not agree with the maritime society's argument that the lighthouse pre-empts zoning altogether. She also supported the ZBA's conclusion that "large tour groups, open houses, school trips, and regular hours of operation," constitute a change of character and are not consistent with the historical use of the property.

The city issued the cease-and-desist order a year after the maritime society performed renovations at the lighthouse and a neighbor filed a lawsuit over a property line dispute.

The suit was settled earlier this year with an agreement that the neighbor buy a sliver of the disputed land and the maritime society open a new entryway through a rock wall for visitors to directly access the lighthouse.

The maritime society has made at least two unsuccessful attempts to alter zoning regulations and have the lighthouse be designated a historic property with special rights and access.

The first Harbor Light, sometimes known as Pequot Light, was built in 1761. Rebuilt in 1801, it is the tallest and oldest lighthouse in Connecticut and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was acquired by the New London Maritime Society in 2009 as part of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. The maritime society acquired Race Rock Light and Ledge Light in a similar manner.

Highland Light closes for Repairs



Sunday 21st October was the last day residents and visitors got to climb the winding 69 steps up through Highland Light before the iconic lighthouse undergoes a major renovation project lasting until 2020.

The Cape Cod National Seashore announced last month that it will close the historic structure in order to make extensive structural and safety repairs stemming from years of degradation caused by changes to the tower's ventilation system.

The project includes, among other things, repairs to the masonry, removal and reapplication of exterior coating, replacement of windows and other corroded parts as well as general safety improvements, according to a press release issued last month.

Highland Light will be closed to the public throughout 2019, but the keeper's shop and exhibit room adjacent to the lighthouse will remain open, where educational materials are posted along the walls and are available for purchase

"It will be a great learning opportunity," said Sue Moynihan, chief of interpretation and cultural resources management for the Seashore. "There are so many stories, and there will be (park) ranger programs and periodic updates on Facebook" throughout the rehabilitation. Overall, the project is expected to cost some \$1.2 million, according to Moynihan.

The first lighthouse on the site was made of wood, and was commissioned by President George Washington in 1797, according to Highland Light's website. It went through several iterations in 1831 and in 1857 — from wood to brick — and in the 1990s, the tower was moved back some 450 feet from the eroding cliff's edge onto safer territory, where it still stands today. The attraction is on the National Register of Historic Places, Moynihan said.

Now the lighthouse, which at its height is positioned 196 feet above sea level, suffers from cracks, spalling bricks and corrosion to its metal railings — problems that have resulted largely from too much moisture and insufficient ventilation, according to Paula Perrone, of Eastern National, manager of the keeper's shop and exhibit room. While Cape Cod National Seashore owns the property, Highland Light is operated by Eastern National, a nonprofit group that runs bookstores in national parks east of the Mississippi, Perrone said.

"When this tower was built in 1857, it was for kerosene lanterns," said Perrone.

The kerosene-based fueling created a lot of heat, preventing a buildup of moisture, Perrone said.

When the lighthouse was moved back from the eroding cliffs in 1996, air spaces in the lower part of the tower that facilitated air flow were filled with a cement-like material, providing stability during the move. But that promoted moisture, which over time led to the deterioration to the masonry tower and corrosion to its metal parts.

"They're going to have to remove all of the paint, fix the bricks and then recoat it," Perrone said. It's been 18 years since the tower had been painted over, she said.

The proposed work is a result of a three-year study of the structure, which connected the building's degradation to the moisture problem.

"This analysis was really important to us because we knew it was a big repair," said Moynihan. "This is one of the National Seashore's most important buildings."

Mendota Lighthouse now has a Passport Stamp



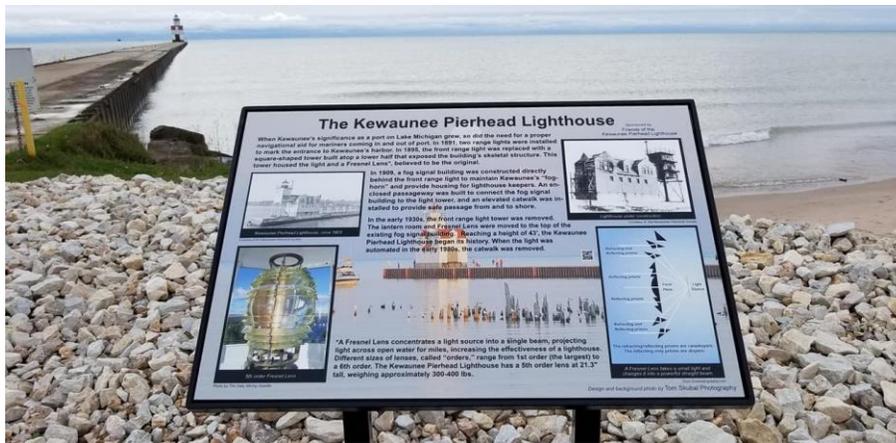
Send your photo of the lighthouse, \$1.00 and a self addresses envelope to:

Laura Scaccia
Mendota Lighthouse
430 south water street
Marine city mi 48039

She will then stamp a 3x5 card and send it back to you

Kewaunee, Wisconsin

The first two of the six history reader boards for the harbor area are up
Photos by Tom Skubal



Happy Birthday to:

Kim Ely	11/04	Laurel Mills	11/13	Kathy Santucci	11/13
Norm Bosse	11/15	Bob Mills	11/15	Jim Streeter	11/15
Gary Toth	11/19				
Linda Sherlock	12/ 03	Carol Drogowski	12/12	Cynthia Bosse	12/12
James Hill	12/14	Jim Seery	12/14	Madelene Taylor	12/22
Judy Newbloom	12/26	Cliff Olson	12/28	Hank Heacock	12/29

Anniversary Wishes to:

Christine & Tom Cardaci	11/02	Frank& Pamela DePasquale	11/14
David & Janice Dingley	12/30		

Just for fun....can you guess which lighthouse I am in?



If you think you know you can e-mail me. (answer next Chapter Chatter)
September/October answer: Sundial at New London Harbour (photo: Ron Foster)

Please Note:

We are looking for **volunteers** who are interested in serving on committees, those who have good ideas for lighthouse preservation, fund raising, suggestions on improving the operations of the club, or just getting more involved.
Please contact: Ron Foster (860) 303-2986 or via e-mail: ron@foster-photo.com

The Lighthouse Digest – For each subscription, please use the subscription envelope that you can get from the form on the NELL website. Mail with check to Lighthouse Digest, ATTN: Kathleen Finnegan, P.O. Box 250, East Machias, ME 04630. Be sure to write NELL in the memo section of your check and NELL will receive \$10.00 per subscription to go toward restoration and preservation of lighthouses.

If you know of a member that needs **some cheer, get well wishes, condolences or congratulations**, please let Cynthia Bosse - Sunshine Chair know at: bossnjc@comcast.net or call 1(860) 688-7347.