

September 2022

Hello NELL Members:

Another NELL event is now in the books. Although we encountered a couple of glitches, members enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Bar Harbor and Winthrop, ME.

On Friday evening, August 26, 2022, the original plan was to take a sunset cruise with Acadia Boat Tours. I received a phone call that morning from Diane, the group sales coordinator, who informed me that our cruise was being canceled due to foggy conditions. The captain checked the weather forecast and it wasn't going to get any better as the day progressed. Diane offered to reschedule our cruise to Saturday evening.

By some sort of miracle, between phone calls, emails, etc., I was able to switch the plans for Friday and Saturday. The word got out regarding the change to the agenda, and everyone made it to the membership meeting on Friday! Thank you to my amazing mom, Rena Garriott, for helping me contact members while enroute from Calais to Bar Harbor. She looked up phone numbers from the membership roster, while I drove and made calls.

The meeting was held at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel & Event Center. Some new members joined us, along with a member who hadn't been to any of our events in 20 years! The customary business was conducted, including reports from Board and Committee members, suggestions for future trips, and possible Zoom presentations.

Also on the agenda was the election of officers. President Henry Winkleman's term will expire in the fall of 2023. The position of Vice President is still open. Linda Sherlock agreed to run as Secretary for another term, and Kathy Santucci will continue as our Treasurer. Many thanks to Jim Malone for agreeing to take on the role of Director at Large.

Ron Foster, on behalf of Graham Meddings, presented the painted buoy to Bob Mills to acknowledge his selection as Mr. NELL for 2022. Sharon Mills selected Arlene Winkleman as Ms. NELL for 2022 and presented her with the painted lighthouse and crown.

Thank you to Ellen and Bob Granoth for having merchandise available for purchase. Sandy Peterson and Debbie Brew held a silent auction and asked members to make offers on other items. Thank you to Sandy, Debbie, and everyone else who contributed and/or placed bids.

Bob Taylor did not make it to this event because he was traveling with the USLHS. But he came through with badges and postcards which were included in the packets given to the attendees. Thank you for your time and work, Bob.

Early Saturday morning, we gathered in downtown Bar Harbor to embark on our cruise to Baker Island on Bar Harbor Whale Watch's M/V Miss Samantha. The fog cleared, the sun appeared, and it looked like a perfect day to see Baker Island Lighthouse and explore the island. But our luck changed. The first group of passengers boarded the skiff and headed off towards the island. Shortly after, those of us who remained on the boat watched as the skiff returned with the passengers. The captain informed us that it would have been a rough landing on Baker Island and could have damaged the skiff. Even if he had been able to get everyone on the island safely, he couldn't assure us that we could get off the island safely and return to the boat. After much consideration, he made the decision to cancel our trip to the island.

Although it was an enormous disappointment, we did see the very top of Baker Island Lighthouse through the trees. We also had views of Egg Rock and Bear Island Lights and the Little Cranberry Island Life Saving Station. We also enjoyed other points of interest along the coast of Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park. The general manager of Bar Harbor Whale Watch kindly offered a partial refund because of the inability to land on Baker Island.

I want to give a huge shout-out to Jim Malone for all of his efforts in attempting to have the lighthouse on Baker Island opened for us. Between phone calls, emails (Jim and me), and nagging (me), we would have been successful if only we had been able to land on the island. I received a phone call at 8:45 PM the night before our cruise from John Cesari, Executive Director of KOB (Keepers of Baker Island), who informed me that the park ranger who would be accompanying us had the key to the lighthouse and would open the door so we could have a look inside and take photographs. Maybe we'll have better luck another time in getting to the island.

After returning from the cruise, many members got stamps for their USLHS passports at the office of Bar Harbor Whale Watch.

We had a few hours of free time before gathering again to board the M/V Eden Star for our sunset cruise which had been rescheduled from Friday evening. The original plan included seeing Egg Rock and Bear Island Lighthouses but, after speaking to the captain and explaining that we had seen those two lighthouses earlier in the day, she offered to change course and take us to see Petit Manan Lighthouse while passing Winter Harbor Lighthouse. Although it was a long ride, it was definitely worthwhile. The sunset was ideal for capturing gorgeous pictures.

On Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, we started out early again for our drive to Winthrop, ME to visit Ladies Delight Lighthouse. The weather cooperated and it was a perfect sunny day.

Several volunteers from the Cobbosseecontee Lake Association volunteered their time and pontoon boats to transport us in shifts to and from the lighthouse. They even constructed a temporary ramp to make it easier for us to disembark onto the small island. Those members who climbed the tower will attest to the fact that the top step was a challenge. Thankfully, the first few members who climbed gave us tips to get from the top step to the lantern room. It was well worth the effort because the view was fantastic!

Ron Foster, Preservation Committee member, presented a check for \$500.00 to William Kieltyka, President of the CLA, as our donation toward the upkeep of Ladies Delight Lighthouse. Repairs to the stonework are expected to begin soon.

Congratulations to Joe Hall, NELL member from New Mexico. As of this visit to Ladies Delight, he has now seen all the lighthouses in the State of Maine!

Suggestions have been made and plans for upcoming events are in the works. Stay tuned for information regarding Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate and You (LHHC&Y). Information on additional Zoom presentations may be forthcoming as well.

Enjoy the fall weather and the holidays, which will be upon us in the blink of an eye!

Linda Sherlock  
Secretary