

COVE POINT LIGHT STATION COMMISSION
Calvert Marine Museum
Administration Building – Conference Room
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2019

PRESENT: Henry Gabelnick, Sherrod Sturrock, Jeff Murray, and Veronica Jordan

ABSENT: Betsy VanAuker, Brenda Hollweger

Recording: Kathleen Porecki

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gabelnick made a motion to approve the October 22, 2018 Minutes as presented.

REPORT FROM CMM DIRECTOR – Sherrod Sturrock

The Cove Point Lighthouse continues to be an important profit center for the museum. Not only do the rentals cover all costs associated with the maintenance of this historic site, but the income also helps support the Facility Rental Coordinator, and provides income for the museum. Since stopping all large events at the site, there have been no major issues – only lots of happy visitors and renters.

Update on Broadband Project

The museum received a \$20,000 grant from Maryland Broadband as a ‘thank you’ for allowing them access to the CPLH site to land the fiber cable that they brought across the bay. These funds will be used to pave the driveway and parking lot on April 15, and the balance will go into landscaping on the site. The Facilities and Rental Coordinator will coordinate where to plant 15 trees that will replace the ones they removed. Although they have achieved all the required permissions to construct the block building on the site, it will not be built unless and until the Navy requests it.

Update on U.S.C.G. Environmental Assessment

The USCG continues to do monthly testing of the well water at the Cove Point site. Since the carbon filter was installed, no diesel range organics (DRO) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) above the recommended standards have been detected. Once MDE gives the ok to stop testing, we will be notified. The brick building will not be available for transfer until the USCG has completed the environmental work, which is expected to be very late 2020 or into 2021.

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Improving the Visitor Experience

At the end of the season last year, we held a meeting with all of the volunteers who work at the Cove Point Lighthouse Visitor Center. They had a number of concerns and suggestions, which we have been addressing. One change is that, going forward, each season will start with a training session, which is scheduled for April 23, 2019 this year, and end with a summary meeting. Among other improvements, we are adding a bench on the front porch, updating the first aid kit, fixing the beach gate, and addressing the landscaping.

SITE UPDATE & STATISTICS – Veronica Jordan

Ms. Veronica Jordan, Facilities and Rental Coordinator for the Calvert Marine Museum attended the meeting to provide an update on the Cove Point Lighthouse rental property.

Statistics for Rentals

As of the end of March, we hosted 434 guests year-to-date, which is similar to last year. Approximately 80% occupancy is booked for the coming year.

Improvements & Landscaping Plans

We removed the barbed wire so it looks more esthetically pleasing. The Curator of Maritime History will replace the rope on the flagpole. There will be a paved area of stones around the flagpole and a stone walkway. April 15, the parking lot will be paved. Landscaping Phase I will happen soon after that, using all native plants. Red, yellow and white is the color scheme. We requested plants that do not attract bees. We have requested funding in the county budget for the electrical box to be buried underground. Then we will update the signage.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Gabelnick suggested we put up a mirror so volunteers can see when visitors come in while sitting at the desk. Mr. Murray will put in a work order to keep the space clean, remove cobwebs and bugs, and clean the toilets at least once per month.

NEXT MEETING TIME and PLACE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Conference Room. This will be Ms. Sturrock's last meeting as museum director. Jeff Murray was introduced as her successor and will attend the next meeting.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.