

Town of Isle au Haut Lighthouse Committee Minutes of Meeting – June 20, 2018

1. Call to order at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall. Present: Jeff, Lisa, Bernie, Martha, Marshall, Kathie, and Ali. Citizens present: Wendell (Friends of Isle au Haut Lighthouse)

2. Minutes of Previous Oct 2017 meeting: pre-approved

3. Reports on lighthouse balances: Lisa has received \$3,400.42 Mar-June 2018, bringing our balance in the Town Lighthouse Fund up to an estimated \$65,751.96. Jeff reports the current balance in the Friends of IAH Lighthouse account is \$71,991.99, with uslhs grant of \$4250 still due - \$141,993.95 total dedicated to fund.

4. Chair's report. No progress on moving forward on formal implementation of Phase One from March into June due to unavailability of our engineer. Finally, with the assistance of SHPO we were able to have midday working session and lunch at the lighthouse. Present: Mike Johnson (SHPO), Al Hodson (Resurgence Engineering), Marshall (Keepers House and Lighthouse Committee), Kathie (Lighthouse Committee), Jeff (Lighthouse Committee and Friends), Wendell (Friends), and Caitlin (SHPO intern). Also present, Cathy Hodson. We inspected the tower and identified all the remaining issues to be addressed in order to implement Phase One. Additionally, Al and Mike came out and went back on the boat together: these two are the decision makers for all the technical questions to be addressed. A follow up communication from Al specifies that he will have all Phase One drawings and plans to Mike's SHPO office by July 6, 2018, and that a memo specifying work to be done will be circulated the week of June 25. Al is also responsible for generating a cost opinion, a project description, bidding documents and has offered to provide an AIA standard contract proposal. I have contacted MB Grindle regarding construction insurance. In order to maximize efficiency, save total costs, and avoid re-work, we voted 6-0 to expand Phase One to include restoring as-needed the entire interior wythe of wood block/brickwork, rather than piece-meal sections only under the ends of the girders.

Expenses: We voted 6-0 to go ahead and order the steel components as soon as final designs are decided, so as to have materials on hand when construction begins, and avoid paying a commission mark-up from potential contractors (Est. of \$10,000). Likewise, Barter Lumber already has our beams stored for the bridge (\$600), and Friends has paid for the mahogany for building current and future replication of doors, sash and cabinets (\$1300). These low prices reflect a large collaborative reduction.

Summer activities: The Boat Company will be selling our book, *The Lighthouse and Me*, available for sale on board and in the office. Alison's film festival will benefit the Lighthouse Fund. The Maine Lighthouse Museum in Rockland will be hosting a signing

of the book on July 21 – Allan and Cathy Toubman from Friends will join Jeff for the event. Swan Island will also host an event for us and have offered to mentor us in our quest for a National Maritime Heritage Grant (They just received one). The Lighthouse Preservation Society has offered to do a national promotion for the book if we provide the design for an 8 ½ by 11-color flyer. The Maine Lighthouse Trust and the State DMV have developed a lighthouse license plate as a fundraiser; charter lighthouse groups can earn annual revenue depending on a one-time signing up of advance registrations. Note: as a follow-up to this committee meeting, Matthew Costello of Friends has volunteered to organize a lighthouse license campaign – anyone else interested?

5. Other business:

* Donna Hopkins is updating our social media with current information on Phase One, the book, and any item of interest. Any suggestions, ideas, or images are welcome.

* We had a discussion on the historical reality that there has never been public land access to the lighthouse. This conflicts with the very understandable desire that the public has that they should have access to a publically owned facility. The Committee firmly believes in finding ways to provide access through Lighthouse Open Days, Docent guided tours, and special events, relying on collaboration from the owner of the Keepers House and the Keepers House dock, and the abutting landowners on the private ROW from Town Road. Nevertheless, this contradiction will endure; our solution has been to promote education about the history of access to the tower, and to work with the Keepers House and ROW owners depending on their willingness to collaborate. We realize it is a necessity as well as a courtesy to regularly review this un-written relationship with all parties and respect their choices, whatever they are.

* Related to the above issue, Jeff discussed how this same contradiction is manifested in the larger world: a history of instances where some individuals and organizations assume that only privileged individuals are allowed access to the Isle Isla au Haut Lighthouse, while others are denied. Most recently, Jeff was asked by a major Maine non-profit organization why only guests at the Keepers House were allowed to go in the lighthouse. The Committee agrees that the lighthouse should be kept locked, and that the history of lack of public access be incorporated into our work.

* We also discussed the need to keep the Town and the populations of the Island abreast of their responsibilities for the lighthouse and the Lighthouse Committee. The tower is not the provenance of only the seven of us.

We will discuss these last three points further in our next meeting.

6. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 Submitted by Jeff