

The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society Board

Sixth Annual Meeting

July 14, 2001

At the home of Bett Padgett in Raleigh, NC, 1213 Dixie Trail

Call to Order

Board members who were present:

Ralph Burroughs

John McPherson

Bett Padgett

Betty Parrish

Bruce Roberts

Cheryl Roberts

Charlie Votaw

Shirley Votaw

Board member being nominated: Jack McCombs (resigned Jan 2002)

Guest: Courtney Whisler taking minutes

Board Members Who Were Absent:

Lloyd Childers

Jim O'Donnell

Mabry O'Donnell

Cullen Chambers

Charlene Wiles-Perry

The Ex-Officio members are:

Representatives from Bald Head (Old Baldy Foundation), Ocracoke Preservation Society, and Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc (Lloyd Childers who is also an OBLHS board member.)

President John McPherson called the sixth annual meeting of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society board to order at 10:32 AM.

The roll was called and the members welcomed.

Bett Padgett was thanked for sharing her home for the weekend with the board. This enabled much discussion in a relaxed manner and afforded time to consider the direction of the OBLHS.

Minutes from 2000 were approved.

Old Business

Membership Report

Betty Parrish noted the number of renewals and deletions to the society's membership. She emphasized the importance of the newsletter keeping the members renewing. It was pointed out that distribution of the new society brochures (accolades for Ralph Burroughs arranging the layout and printing by Rowan Business Forms of Salisbury, thanks to Cheryl for text, Bruce for pics) will encourage new members. Total membership 4/20/01 was 638; this is the number of active and paid-to-date members. Ralph Burroughs noted that membership is increased over 2000 by about 10%. Since Betty receives membership dues, she often receives donations. The board agreed by consent that when donors do not specify the use of the donation, that the amount be deposited into the OBLHS General Fund.

To help spur new members, Bruce Roberts asked that a small membership form be printed six times a year in the *Lighthouse Digest*, which Betty stated that we get eight or so new members each time it appears in that publication.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter editor Cheryl Roberts reported that the current issue, a special 16-page edition on the Hatteras Keepers Descendants Homecoming, was sent only to OBLHS members and attending Hatteras keepers' descendants. President John McPherson stated that he sent brochures to the Aycock Visitors Center, Bodie Island and Cape Hatteras Lighthouses. Charlie and Shirley Votaw will make sure that a newsletter is posted at key places along the OBX, serve as a contact for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, make sure the OBLHS brochure is in stock (given free to visitors), and secure clippings of interest for the editor. The board suggested that a copy of the newsletter be placed in sheet protectors in a three-ring binder and placed on the desks of the three key points for arriving visitors listed above. The board approved the addition of one advertiser's brochure per issue. The advertising business would be required to pay for the extra postage and gives a \$100 donation to the society. Betty Parrish has been handling the bulk postage mailing. The board thanked her for this hard work. It was agreed that she be paid \$.10 per envelope she mails.

To keep down expenses the board suggested these printing schedules: winter, spring, and fall 2,500 copies; summer 5,000. Due to the expense of each issue, around \$.50 per copy, the board asked for consideration to copy on inexpensive paper an excerpt of the newsletter for wider distribution. The lighthouses always want more of the newsletters. The editor agreed to investigate this.

Roberts asked that all board members be on the mailing list permanently along with key political offices and media.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Parrish resigned as Treasurer from the Board in late May 2001, the week before this meeting. John held the treasurer's material temporarily. Once the new treasurer is in place, a more detailed report will be forwarded to the Board. The board wrote Bill a letter of appreciation and signed it, accepting his resignation with regrets.

Update on Coastal Lights

Currituck Lighthouse is seeing 1.5 times the number of visitors. Because Hatteras is closed to climbing for repairs, Executive Director of the Currituck Lighthouse and OBLHS board member Lloyd Childers could not be present for the board meeting today due to the pressure of increased visitation to Currituck.

Bodie Island hosted 26,729 visitors in June. With so many visitors, more interpretive programs are needed. New board member Jack McCombs is volunteer coordinator and contact for the society at Bodie Island. Thanks to Jack, more volunteers have joined the team to help greet visitors and answer their questions. He keeps an accurate record of the number of visitors and volunteers' hours at the lighthouse each month.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is closed due to metal failure in a step. Tests are being conducted and a method for repair is being completed by the NPS. The lighthouse may remain closed for the year; one advantage that was pointed out is that recently a new design of brackets for stabilizing the stairs is available now and rubber cushions that are installed above the brackets for lessening the resonance caused by many climbers. Both the stress of footsteps and vibration have negatively impacted the strength of the stairs.

Ocracoke's condition is not known at this time.

Cape Lookout is in the process of being transferred to the National Park Service in the Cape Lookout National Seashore, now part of the Cape Hatteras Group. Volunteer Richard Meissner will attend next year's meeting and ask for the society's support to raise maintenance funds. The transfer should be complete by then. Cape Lookout Superintendent Karren Brown stated that an environmental assessment study must first be completed before the transfer is to be done. It may be time consuming since the US Coast Guard and the NPS each expect the other to do the study.

Bald Head has offered no report

Oak Island reported that tours are being conducted for the public by the U.S. Coast Guard on Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 AM- 2 PM.

Update on Museums

National Lighthouse Museum has hired a new Director. Things seem to be going well. The website for the **Staten Island National Lighthouse Museum** is www.lighthousemuseum.org. They just got more money from Staten Island Burrough President.

Great Lakes Lighthouse Museum is represented in a superbly created notebook on their proposed new museum. In conversations with Dick Moehl GLLKA, a new development person has been hired and will start working on funding.

ALCC will be meeting in Wilmington October 25-28, Several members are speaking or attending this maritime conference.

New Business

Jack McCombs and Sandra MacLean Clunies were unanimously approved as new OBLHS board members.

The Board renamed a Vice President to VP Fundraising/Restoration for Bodie Island.

Election of Officers:

President- John McPherson

VP Membership- Betty Parrish

VP Marketing and Promotion- Bett Padgett

VP Fundraising/Restoration for Bodie Island- Jack McCombs

Secretary- Drs. Jim and Mabry O'Donnell

Treasurer- Bruce Roberts

Honorary Board Members

Cullen Chambers was elected to this honor.

Report on Bodie Island and proposal to raise funds

Jack McCombs has worked diligently to create a plan for raising funds for restoration for Bodie Island. He canvassed the board for a decision to write a formal proposal to form a partnership with the National Park Service to give OBLHS permission to raise public funds. The decision of the board was to avoid an agreement that would require the services of a salaried and professional fundraiser. Jack was asked to coordinate with Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park (CAHA) NPS managers and attempt to negotiate a less complex fundraising agreement to raise ~\$500,000.

Recently, NC Representatives from Elizabeth City and Edenton defeated a matching state grant for approximately \$250,000 from Save America's Treasures to begin restoration at Bodie Island; thus, there are no funds available to do any work on this lighthouse.

Before the board can decide whether to agree to a partnership with the park to raise restoration monies, estimated at \$1.7 million, it must be determined if the park's request for federal funds is a "high-priority" line item in Congress. If so, this can restrict the society's ability to raise funds publicly. To date, information from CAHA managers indicates funding for Bodie Island Lighthouse has not become a line item.

The board agreed that nominating the Bodie Island Lighthouse for the National Registry of Historic Places will aid in future fundraising. Jack McCombs will write the nomination with the editorship of Candace Clifford. Next, he will investigate the possibilities of the partnership with the park and present his fundraising plan. It should be noted that the society already has a Hatteras fund in place. For example, in 1999, \$5,000 was given to the park which paid for the wayside marker at the original site of the keepers' quarters. Jack will keep the board apprised of his progress on obtaining information on the nomination and possible partnership. . Subsequent to the July 14th board meeting Jack has emailed CAHA managers and requested a meeting to discussing the nomination and the fundraising agreement. The meeting will be held between 27 and 29 July, after which Jack will advise the board of those conversations and recommendations for any future actions.

Jack also noted that in the development of a fundraising plan that sources for funds must be identified, media contacted for public relations, and kick-off events planned. He asked the board's support for expense money when he takes his presentation on the road. Preceding any of these events will be the approved application by the OBLHS for a partnership to raise restoration funds. Once all criteria are met, then an official announcement of the partnership can be made and fundraising can begin. Further, Jack will develop the fundraising presentation, assuming the Society and CAHA management agree to a much simpler fundraising plan, but once that is developed other members of the Society, as well as Jack can deliver the presentation to both in- and out-of-state companies and organizations. He also noted that he will prepare visuals as part of the presentation including transparencies and copies of the presentation to be left with each company viewing the presentations as a potential donor. The society will take responsibility for the expense of these materials.

President John McPherson also spoke of the society's "Grand Plan for Bodie Island" First, restoration of the Bodie Island Lighthouse; second, restoration and relocation of the Bodie Island Life Saving Station; third, restoration of the double keepers quarters; construction of a separate visitors center/bookstore/interpretive center to tie-in the light station and life saving station. Bruce and John had talked to NPS officials about this several years ago, the park and the society had put these ideas on the back burner to assist Cape Hatteras.

The board noted that visitors are disappointed when they visit Cape Hatteras and Bodie Island Lighthouses due to the absence of costumed interpreters, period furniture in the keepers' quarters, and other attractions that put the light station back to the look and feel of late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries.

Report on the Homecoming

Bruce and Cheryl Roberts along with Charlie and Shirley Votaw announced that the Hatteras Keepers Descendants Homecoming weekend, May 4-6, 2001, was a huge success. Financially, we still have \$9,000 to pay the printer for the commemorative book. 5,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$23,000. There were no royalties or fees charged by the creators, Cheryl Roberts, Sandra MacLean Clunies, or Bruce Roberts. The copyright is held by OBLHS.

With roughly \$12,000 of promised donations yet to be received, the Homecoming will make a profit. Upon the sales of the remaining HATTERAS KEEPERS ORAL AND FAMILY HISTORIES, more income will be afforded the society.

The Hatteras Homecoming committee's function has officially ended. Lynn Jennette, cochairman of the Homecoming committee, is still taking orders for leftover books, tee shirts and sweatshirts. President John McPherson called for all bills to be paid and the bank account closed by the end of the third fiscal quarter, September 30, 2001, though accounting information is needed from Jennette by September 3 to give our CPA, Jeanne Webb of McGladrey and Pullen in Morehead City. McPherson also asked McCombs, Roberts and Burroughs to offer any assistance to Lynn in closing her books. The board approved \$1,000 for Jennette to hold an appreciation dinner for all Homecoming volunteers.

Planning a lighthouse tour of the OBX

Due to many requests, a large number coming from the society's official website at <http://www.outer-banks.com/lighthouse-society> and emails received by Cheryl Roberts, President John McPherson plans a tour of NC Lighthouses, sponsored by the society. The U.S. Lighthouse Society charges \$1,000 for 3-day tour, not including airfare. John McPherson plans to put together a 40-person tour. The board unanimously approved the concept. Details are forthcoming.

Awards:

Board members voted the following awards:

Founders Award: Tim Harrison of the American Lighthouse Foundation

Bodie Island: Patty Lockamy, former Chief of Interpretation for the NPS

Cape Hatteras: Charlie and Shirley Votaw

President's awards: Rick Polad, Henry and Chris Gonzales, Roy's Folks (Roy Ackland and David Weatherly), John Howard, Bank of America, and Lynn Jennette

The board approved to create a new award in 2002 in order to recognize the many who have generously helped the OBLHS.

OBLHS Dinner

A joint event is planned with the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society in 2002. Bett Padgett, VP of Marketing and Promotion, will coordinate the event with Chesapeake members. Plans include a boat trip, lighthouse tour, auction, and several guest speakers.

Informal Discussion

The board agreed that a meeting between OBLHS and the new Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Outer Banks Group, Larry Belli, should be set up as soon as possible. Mr. Belli takes over as superintendent August 1, 2001.

Concerning Bodie Island restoration, the NPS had previously told Jack McCombs they planned to use Cullen's '97 survey as well as the 2001 survey (assuming it occurs) in the Bodie Island Lighthouse Condition Assessment Report which they hope to publish late this year. It would also include the nomination Jack is writing.

President John McPherson stated that the society has the help of attorney Bowen C. Houff 336-761-1250, a partner of Blanco, Tackaberry in Winston-Salem. Burroughs added that they are a very respected firm and we are lucky to have their services.

Ralph Burroughs noted that if necessary, he can obtain help with grant writing, creating flyers, etc for OBLHS.

President John McPherson adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

The next meeting is set for the Nags Head area on or about May 29, 2002.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cheryl Shelton-Roberts
John McPherson
Jack McCombs