

Harbor, Parks and Recreation – St. James Lighthouse Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes – DRAFT posted 6/6/23

June 2, 2023 12:00 St. James Township Hall

Attendees: Debra Harris, Craig Peirano, Joel Meintsma, Cynthia Pryor, Rita Peirano

Absent: Lori Taylor-Blitz

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm with Introductions of members made.

1. Overview of Recreation Parks Committee made and where the sub-committee fit in. Brief history of the past committee actions was discussed. The current Lighthouse Fund was shared and opportunities for fund-raising/grant options were discussed.

ACTION: All agreed to add Rita Peirano as a standing member of the committee.

***ACTION:** Deb would like to work on fund-raising - Cynthia will determine what township rules are necessary for fund-raising activities

***ACTION:** Cynthia will check with Township officials as to concerns of liability for conducting tours.

ACTION: Cynthia will contact the Lighthouse Keepers group in Mackinaw for representation to this committee

ACTION: Cynthia will notify both the National Parks Service and the Michigan Lighthouse Association that the committee exists and will be working with them with recommended actions.

2. Maintenance and Safety – Joel Meintsma. Joel shared his work with Lighthouse and his concerns of the safety for citizen access to the Light.

ACTION: Joel will develop a Maintenance Plan for the Lighthouse which will include keeping/acquiring supplies to support this plan and his recommendations for maintenance for this year.

3. Joel led a tour of the Light and pointed out issues.

ACTION: Deb will look into the construction of a handle for the top of the stairs to aid in safely reaching the top of the Light.

ACTION: Deb noted a product called Rhino and Craig added that a lighthouse in Ohio he knew used the Rhino product that was used to coat

the outside and seemed to really work. Joel will check into the product for use on the Light.

ACTION: Craig and Rita had an idea to use a Pool Noodle to be used on the outside of the trap door so that visitors do not bump their heads climbing into the top. They will retrofit one and we will try it to see if this will suffice.

ACTION: Joel will look into adding a portable step and hand rail to the Light for safety of visitors entering the building.

4. Public Access was discussed and the history of tours. Craig and Rita have agreed to be key-holders.

ACTION: Joel will make 2 additional keys for the groups use

***ACTION:** There will be a meeting June 9th for the development of a recommended protocol for tours. Meeting set for the 9th, 12:00 noon at the Township Hall.

5. Land and Buildings Upgrade/Maintenance Requirements – the group will continue to explore options for development and fund raising as necessary. **GOAL:** To be able to meet a November 2023 Michigan Lighthouse Association grant cycle with a grant submission if necessary.

6. Citizen Recommendations:

Deb Harris: Should use the idea of a sign-in book that will also act as a liability waiver and agreement of personal risk to access the Lighthouse.

***ACTION:** Cynthia will check with Township as to waiver language and whether it is recommended

Adjourned at 1:10 pm. Next meeting June 9th, 12:00 noon

*d items require Township authority or Board approval

Sub-Committee Members:

Debra Harris – Citizen Representative
Craig Peirano – Citizen Representative
Rita Peirano – Citizen Representative
Joel Meintsma – St. James Maintenance Director
Lori-Taylor Blitz – Beaver Island Historical Society Director
Cynthia Pryor – Chair