



Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society

P.O. Box 683 • Cape Vincent NY 13618 • www.tibbettspointlighthouse.org

~ *Founded 1988* ~

TPLHS Year-End Newsletter

December 31, 2019

To: The Cape Vincent Town Board and the residents of the Town of Cape Vincent

From: The Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society

Welcome to the new decade! Many of us lose touch during the winter months, but our goal this year is to improve communications. Even though our Visitors Center is only open through Columbus Day, our organization is active throughout the year. There have been board member changes and board committee revisions. That said, we believe an update is needed to improve communications.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our final board meeting was held on September 25, 2019. At that meeting, Jerry Briggs resigned from the office of vice president and his position of volunteer coordinator, but agreed to continue as a board member and Visitors Center volunteer. John Tucker, who has served on the board for 25 years and president for the past six years, decided to remain on the board but not serve as president. We have added two new board members, Sharon Clark and John Mosher. Our eleven board of directors and officers are:

Michael Cougler - President
Cyril "Butch" Cullen - V.P. / Treasurer
Sally Williams - Secretary
Jana Powell - Gift Shop Manager
Dona Cullen - Assistant Gift Shop Manager
Sandra RippetEAU - Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Clark – Volunteer Coordinator
John Mosher – Volunteer Coordinator
John Tucker - Member at Large
Jack Ross - Member at Large
Jerry Briggs - Member at Large

NEWS

Our "Lighthouse Family" is very interested in being involved in the Cape Vincent community. Our volunteers have built and entered a float in the French Festival Parade for three years in a row after a long hiatus. We again assisted in the annual Tibbetts Point Run. And, more importantly, we hosted the Annual Jean Cougler Day/ Ice Cream Social. The social honoring Jean, a long-time light house (and Hostel) volunteer, is held the second Sunday in August to thank the people in the community for their support. Peg Dolan was again the entertainment as we served over 200 ice cream sundaes. In September, our volunteers manned an information booth in the Stroll on Broadway event.

Nearly 10,000 visitors signed our guest book in 2019. Many more have visited the Town's Lighthouse Recreation Facility, and they did not sign our Visitor's Center guest book. 9213 visitors were from the USA and Canada, and 150 visitors were from 26 different foreign countries.

We again awarded \$1000 academic scholarships to two Town of Cape Vincent students attending Thousand Islands High School. The awards will be distributed upon their successful completion of their first semesters and entry into their second semesters of college in 2020.

Our fall newsletter generated over \$1000 in contributions and memorial donations. Many of the donors are visitors who live far away and have had a good experience, fond memory, or an enjoyable visit to a beautiful, free, historical treasure, the lighthouse. One contribution added a memorial plaque to a park bench near the telescope. Our volunteers deserve much of the credit because they do an excellent job to assist our visitors and to promote other Town attractions. It is also important to note that many of our volunteers actively volunteer in other Town and Chamber of Commerce activities.

We launched our own Facebook page and website, www.tibbettpointlighthouse.org, to provide better information and historical reference. It is in the process of further development. Many businesses in the community use the lighthouse as part of their marketing, and we encourage them to do so. Our website could provide additional promotional opportunities for them as well. Again, we ask everyone to please let us know if they have website suggestions. Soon, we hope to have a board member as website liaison.

The gift shop was well stocked and produced slightly more income than last year. We have inventory surplus from 2019, and we will be ordering and adding new products including reusable shopping bags. In April, our gift shop volunteers will begin to set-up and restock after winter storage. We have open slots in our gift shop's shift coverage. Therefore, we will be working to add new volunteers to fill these open 3-hour time slots. There might also be opportunities for area students to earn community service hours by volunteering at the lighthouse. Contact us for more information.

Maintaining the lighthouse and fog horn buildings, providing educational opportunities, and covering our operating costs, have always been our primary fundraising duties. Currently, we have funds to assist the town, if necessary, to help cover foreseeable expenses. For example, the fog horn building ceiling is in need of repair. Since our inception, we have invested in lighthouse maintenance, and construction of the visitor's center and gazebo.

We continue to have concern over the condition, use, and future use of the keepers' houses, even though the Town is responsible to maintain these historical structures. These buildings are an important part of the Town's recreation facility. We understand the National Parks Service has indicated they will assist the town in finding an approved use for these facilities, and we look forward to hearing their findings. Finally, we would like to discuss developing procedures to follow, through a Town liaison, to maintain and improve Town communications.

As our most important asset, we have about twenty-five volunteers. We continue to encourage members of the community to contact us if they have ideas to share. We continue to ask family, friends, visitors, and members of the community if they or a friend might enjoy sharing in our lighthouse experiences as a volunteer, one 3-hour shift per week. Please refer any potential volunteers to our Volunteer Coordinators. We are looking forward to working with the Town in the spring!

Wishing you happiness and peace in 2020,

Michael J. Cugler, President, TPLHS
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