

ST. PETERS HARBOUR LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY
August 13, 2024 - Leo Rossiter Park, Morell, PE

Present: Linda Anderson, Mel Anderson(Board member at-large), Robert Baker, Suzanne Baker, Sandra Brazel, Jane Clute, Dana Dineen(Board Member at-large), Galen Dineen, John Flinn, Syd Freiman, Karen Gormley, Chris Hutt(Treasurer), Charlie Jackson, Karen Jay, Scott MacEwen(Vice President), Sidney MacEwen(Board Member at-large), Dave Matthes, Diane Matthes, Debbie Barton-Moore, Jesse Moore, Natasha Moore, Bill Morton(President), Kai Morton, JoAnne Morton, Shamus Morton, Craig Ono(Secretary), Michele Pierce, Mary Phillips, Jackie Playter, Gail Rice(Past President), Barbara Rousseau(Board Member at-large), Peter Rousseau, Katie Sheahan, Rajiv Singal, KC Spengler, Jill Stevenson, Alison Talbot, Vera Teschow, Arlene Van Diepen.

Regrets: Judith Bree - Board member representing the OSPHRA

Welcome and Introductions:

President Bill Morton introduced the Board of Directors in attendance, along with the positions they hold, and a warm welcome back was extended to all in attendance.

Prior to getting into the Society's official reports, a special moment of silence took place to remember our friend and neighbour, Kirk Martin of SPH, who passed away suddenly on the morning of the AGM as well as all other absent friends of the Society.

Past-President Gail Rice then provided a short talk on the history of volunteer involvement at the time when the DFO was decommissioning Lighthouses back in 2010. This overview was followed by some remarks by Bill Morton about the special significance of the Lighthouse in this community - then and now.

President's Report:

Bill Morton began his official report by thanking all the volunteers involved in the work of the Lighthouse and then provided an update on the various initiatives undertaken in 2023-24. Among the many activities that took place, highlights included:

- the assessment of the Lighthouse and site reported no major issues,
- our participation in the Morell River Run Festival Parade as well as entering a display in the Festival Expo in July 2024.
- the installation of a new, more efficient solar-powered illumination system - complete with remote controls!
- the installation of the completed storyboard project - complete with QR coding to allow visitors to access the SPHLS website on-site in real time.
- The installation of the Government of Canada Heritage plaque designating the Lighthouse as a historic installation.
- the submission of our application to the province for funding of a 12-place aluminum bicycle rack - including anchors. This application was successful and the bike rack is to be installed adjacent to the parking area.

Additional official signage was installed to indicate that large vehicles, i.e. busses and motor homes are not permitted access to the Lighthouse Rd.

Significant work was undertaken by the province to repair and restore the road and parking area that was damaged by weather this spring. The road is in the best shape it has been in in years.

Looking ahead, the Board will be undertaking:

- the updating of our website to include options for on-line purchasing of SPHLS merchandise as well as speedier access to renewing membership dues and donations
- the updating of our SPHLS merchandise going forward.

Finance Report:

Chris Hutt delivered the report on the Society's finances. As expected, the Society budgeted for and ran a small deficit once again this past year and this is the result of having annual fixed costs of approximately \$4000/year at a time when the pandemic reduced opportunities to do our customary fundraising activities to help offset these costs. The Society has returned to its customary practice of soliciting members for annual membership dues and the recruitment of new members.

That said, due to the successful obtention of grants for both the re-painting of the Lighthouse and installation of the Storyboard in 2023, the Society was able to accomplish both these key elements without affecting the Society's bottom line.

The Society has a healthy bank balance of \$14.8K and is able to continue to meet all its obligations going forward. There is no need to engage in fund-raising activities at this time.

On a motion by Chris Hutt, and seconded by Syd Freiman, the financial report was approved with unanimous support of the members in attendance.

On a motion by Chris Hutt and seconded by Vera Teschow, there was unanimous approval for retaining MRSB to perform the SPHLS financial review (audit) for the 24-25 fiscal year. Outreach to obtain quotes for the financial reviews going forward, i.e. for 2025-26 and beyond, as well as for our insurance, will be conducted as a matter of due diligence.

Membership & Nominations Report

The Society's membership list has two main components. The first group is made up of those who supported the SPHLS during the Founding Membership Campaign in the years leading up to January 2017 - the year that the Lighthouse was restored. These members contributed a one-time gift and have been recognized on the large plaque that has been installed on the Lighthouse itself. These members continue to receive updates, bulletins, and invitations to Lighthouse activities. This is a group of 45 households and/or dedications.

The second group is composed of both founding members who have remained active as well as new members who have joined the organization over the years and who are also active members who have regularly paid annual dues or who have become Silver Shingle or Lifetime Members. This membership breaks down as follows:

9 individual memberships,
72 household/family memberships
2 corporate memberships

Note: 1 new membership was added at this AGM.

Within this report, the presentation of our latest Silver Shingle Award took place and was awarded to Founding members: Jackie Playter & her grandson, Charlie Jackson.

As of this AGM, the Society now boasts 37 Silver Shingle members.

Overall, we are pleased to report healthy and growing membership numbers and this support is fundamental

to the Society's mission of maintaining the Lighthouse and preserving its heritage.

Board Composition and Nominations

Our by-laws provide for up to 12 positions on the Board of Directors. As per the records of previous AGMs, 10 of these positions are filled with terms ranging from 1-4 additional years.

Mel Anderson
Judith Bree
Dana Dineen
Chris Hutt
Scott MacEwen
Sidney MacEwen
Bill Morton
Craig Ono
Gail Rice
Barbara Rousseau

Two Board members who concluded their 5 year terms and are retiring from the Board are: Mel Anderson and Craig Ono. Thank you presentations were conducted for both these long standing and committed volunteers and they each received a print of the SPH Lighthouse painted by Bud MacEwen.

Members are invited to express their interest in volunteering with the Society through our various communications during the year.

Note: Most Board meetings are conducted via Zoom throughout the fall, winter, spring with up to three in-person meetings during the summer months. Should anyone be considering volunteering with the SPHLS Board, please do not hesitate to contact President Bill Morton to express your interest.

Comments/Q&A

An announcement was made by Board member, Barbara Rousseau that she will have a book coming out in the Fall within which a chapter on the SPHLS Lighthouse will be featured.

Adjournment & Closing Remarks:

At the close of the business part of the meeting, Bill Morton thanked members once again for their on-going support and made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Peter Rousseau and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at @8:20 pm and was followed by a short social thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sheahan
Volunteer-at-large