



COVE POINT LIGHT STATION COMMISSION
Annual Report
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

The first meeting of the FY2016 year COVE POINT LIGHT STATION COMMISSION was held at the Administration Building Conference Room on October 9, 2015.

The membership section of the Cove Point Light Station Commission by-laws states that up to seven (7) members can serve on the CPLSC. One (1) representative from Cove of Calvert, two (2) representatives from Cove Point Beach Association. Mr. Gabelnick is the Cove of Calvert representative, Mr. Zabiegalski is one of the Cove Point Beach Association (one more rep needed), and Mrs. VanAuker and Mr. Alves are "at large" members.

Due to the recent drownings at Cove Point, warning signs and signs saying *No Public Access* have been installed. The fence will be extended along the seawall to deter people from walking the rocks in front of the Lighthouse. Mr. Alves asked Mr. Zabiegalski to make the community aware of CMM's effort to help solve the problem. CMM wants the community to know the dangers of strong water currents in the area; it is important to get the word out to everyone.

CMM is still dealing with complaints from the Lighthouse's neighbor about noise from occasional wedding receptions, though efforts have been made to minimize any sound. The last few receptions were quite quiet after implementing their suggestions such as making sure the speakers of any amplified music faced out to the bay. Music stops at 10:00 p.m. and guests are to vacate the premises by 11:00 p.m. The Board of County Commissioners will meet in January to discuss whether or not future weddings will be allowed at Cove Point Lighthouse.

No word on the broad band drilling.

Cove Point Lighthouse Visitation Figures (2015) were distributed for review. The list is broken down into 3 columns, Maryland Cities, States, and Countries. Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia seem to be the target areas. Admission figures are slightly down from 2014. Cove Point had 340 visitors from The Lighthouse Challenge.

Mr. Zabiegalski asked if Mr. Alves would be willing to open the Cove Point Lighthouse grounds for community events. Mr. Alves replied he would not extend the invitation for them to use the grounds, mostly due to the fact it is now a rental and would be a disruption to the tenants.

There was discussion about the lighthouse being replaced in the future with a beacon. It is the Calvert Marine Museum's intention to keep Cove Point as a working lighthouse.

The second meeting of the year took place at the Cove Point Lighthouse Visitor Center on Monday, April 25, 2016.

Mr. Alves moved that the current slate of officers remain; Margaret VanAuker, Chair and Henry Gabelnick, Vice Chair. There was no opposition from the members present and no further action was taken.

The signage as Cove Point has been upgraded with better and sturdier material. The panels that were under the pavilion have been moved to the Visitors' Center. Plans are to build a new handicap ramp.

The County is offering a \$1000 reward for information on who destroyed the fence that was installed to keep beachgoers off the rocks. Estimated damage from the vandals is over \$2000. No Trespassing signs were put up for safety reason, but people do not want to abide by the rules.

CMM is working with the County to mount a camera on the Lighthouse tower.

CPLS lost some signs over the winter that were on the beach about No Swimming Due to Dangerous Currents. Those signs will go back up for public safety reasons. Mr. Gabelnick suggested having a "life ring" available for emergencies.

Mr. Alves asked if anyone has heard any comments about the fence. Mr. Spahr replied that he has heard no feedback from the Cove Point Community.

No more information received about the Maryland Broad Band drilling.

Cove Point Keeper's House rentals are doing very well. The Board of County Commissioners has not made a decision whether or not the lighthouse grounds can be used for weddings in the future. Mr. Alves felt that smaller weddings and tents that have sides help eliminate some of the problems that seem to disturb the surrounding neighbors.

CMM continues to hold their educational programs on the grounds, but staff is very considerate of the renters, but so far they seem to enjoy the activity.

The Coast Guard will not be using the "radio building" because they found lead paint and have no money to do the repairs.

Spring clean-up for the Cove Point Lighthouse grounds will take place before the May 7th opening. Mr. Spahr said he will ask the community for volunteers.