

COVE POINT LIGHT STATION COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2024: January 1 – December 31, 2024

The Cove Point Light Station Commission is an advisory board to Calvert County and its Board of County Commissioners on matters involving the Light Station located in Lusby and managed by the Calvert Marine Museum. The Commission is made up of seven voting members and specifically includes members recommended by the Cove Point Beach Association and the Cove of Calvert Association. A designated staff person from the Calvert Marine Museum and members representing Calvert County at large also serve. An important focus of the Commission is to maintain good relations between the Light Station (Calvert County government owns the property and the Calvert Marine Museum manages it) and its surrounding communities, including Cove Point Beach and Cove of Calvert.

The Commission met in the Visitors Center at the Light Station on May 20, 2024, and October 28, 2024.

Dr. Henry Gabelnick, who lives in Cove of Calvert, served as Chair of the Commission. Albert “Bert” Lane III, who lives in Cove Point Beach, served as Vice-Chair. Jeffrey Murray, Director of the Calvert Marine Museum, represented the museum. In addition, the membership included: Valerie Miller, Leslie Garcia, and Dr. Daniel Curry. The following Calvert Marine Museum staff attended at least one of the meetings in a non-voting capacity: Rachelle Green, Deputy Director; Marci Kreamer, Events and Facilities Coordinator; and Kathleen Porecki, Office Specialist I.

At both 2024 meetings, the Commission received updates from museum staff regarding the Light Station. These included the status of the rental schedule for both sides of the Keeper’s House; the status of the public visitation times scheduled on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from May through September; the Purple Martin House; and regular maintenance of the property and its buildings. In addition, staff reported on upgrades to the property. In 2024, these included the striping of the parking lot, the replacement of the Visitors Center roof, new landscaping, and the replacement of the HVAC units for the Keeper’s House. Staff also kept the Commission abreast of the reality that Calvert County, in 2024, was struggling through a lean financial period during which there would be no or very limited money available for capital projects at the Light Station.

During 2024, the Commission:

- Agreed to participate in strategic planning for the museum as a whole. Lord Cultural Resources is guiding the planning.
- Encouraged staff to include the Light Station in environmental care initiatives including the use of dark sky lighting on the property and providing receptacles for recycling plastics, metals, paper, etc.
- Acknowledged that the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, in response to problems arising from the use of the Light Station for weddings, decided several years ago to prohibit weddings and other community events from happening on the property. The Commission, following discussion on whether allowing community events to occur at the Light Station could be possible in the future, declined to ask the Board to re-consider its decision.
- Received a report that there had been significant beach erosion in 2024 on Calvert County property sitting south of the fenced portion of the Light Station. It is an area used by renters of the Keeper's House and participants in educational programs sponsored by the museum, and it connects to beach access property owned by the Cove Point Beach Association. Several members of the Commission and staff of the Calvert Marine Museum visited the affected area on October 28, 2024.