

**Overfalls Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2020  
Meeting held by video conference, Lewes, DE**

**Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.**

**In Attendance:** Bill Battista, Albert Didden, Bob Gibson, Bob Garry, Sue Tolbert, Dave Beck, Don Gansauer, Tom Rew, Tracy Mulveny, Mike Safina, Al Klineberger and Tom Wrubel.

**Secretary's Report:** Last meeting minutes approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Accepted as submitted

**Old Business**

**Rip Rap:**

LHS does not have their permit yet. Precision Marine does not expect to disturb our property as long as the LHS side is done at the same time. If LHS is not immediately ready, Precision Marine can still start without them, but it would likely require them to store materials on our property. The area is being torn up by tides and needs to be fixed ASAP. Albert will try to accelerate LHS approval.

**DANA Meetings:** Tony has sent out a homework assignment for 4-5 suggestions for or strategic vision. Mission, Vision and Value statements have been approved and we may begin using them in new materials and for them to be posted on our website. It is ok to use up existing supplies with the older statements. Looking to have the last DANA meeting face-to-face about July 8th or 9th. This will be a 4 to 5-hour meeting.

**Scholarship Program:** Waiting for Wyatt Freuhauf to contact us for a date to receive his check and get a picture. Tracy is coordinating this. Tom will prepare something on the web site.

**New Business**

**Season Opening:** We should put off tours until other organizations have opened and see what they do. After extended discussion it was decided not to open the ship for tours until July 17 at the earliest. A motion was made and passed to delay opening the ship from June 26 to July 17. Number of people on tours will have to be limited. Discussion of doing tours by reservation only. Tracy will contact Marcos at LHS to see how their reservation system is working. We will also check with Mark Chura at Ft. Miles to see what he knows. Albert will get a copy of the LYC procedures to Bill and Mike. It will be up to the docents and guides to do all the work wiping down surfaces after each tour. We have a lot of potential areas of exposure such as chairs, benches and the Monomoy boat. Concerns were raised with regard to having sufficient volunteers to support reopening as well as how to keep them safe. A committee was formed of Mike, Sue and Dave to draft a proposal in support of a Board decision at the next meeting whether or not open on July 17.

**Covid Relief Grant award:** We have received a grant for \$5027. There are actions we must comply with in the grant. Albert suggested we read the grant and make sure we understand all the requirements.

**Nomination Committee:** The election will be October 9th. The nominating committee consists of the Executive Committee plus two at large directors. Mike suggested Ray Glick, Brook Hedge, Dennis Rearden and Sue and Guy Townsend. He will contact them to see if they are interested. The current board can be between 5 and 15 members. Mike proposed a motion to reduce the maximum number of directors to 12 for next year. The motion passed.

Officer positions for next year: Mike Safina will run for President; Bob Garry will run for treasurer and Tracy will again run for Executive Administrator. (We will look for someone to help her and replace her next year) Bob Gibson will give up the Secretary position this year.

**4 – Gas Meter for Ship:** We are going to buy a meter to monitor gas levels of the lower decks to ensure safety of the dirty hands gang and our visitors.

**Committee Reports:****Curator's Report:**

**Removed from collection:** 1 Fibrous glass life vest, orange, badly deteriorated with outer canvas loss exposing inter bags of flotation material. Photographed to show vest was unfit for public display.

Permission to remove approved by President.

All of ship's life vests are in various stages of deterioration. Some are of the discontinued in 1946 Kapok filled model. Plan to inspect all more closely. Suggest badly deteriorated be removed from public display.

**Received:** Photograph of LV 118 under tow, returning from refit at shipyard. Gifted by Elaine Simmerman.

**Modified tours:** A small set of interior photos will be on display in ships store. This will give the visitors views of various locations below top deck and will include views of engine rooms.

**Artifacts fund:** A suggestion for consideration by the board. As curator from time to time scan the internet for lightship artifacts for sale. Some are found, thus far none would complement our collection. I did locate a brass, speaking tube mouthpiece and attached whistle. Price not shown and it was sold!! At 2021 budget time I will put forth a line item add for such a fund. I would encourage that this line item be given a separate funding initiative, so it draws no funds from our operating budget.

**Dirty Hands Gang Report:** The DHG had its first work party on May 26. Needed repairs were examined and solutions developed. These were worked on during our second work party. However, I did not have enough workers to have the deck power washed. This will happen on our next workday.

New cap covers were installed on the main engine and generator stacks.

New shields were installed on the deck winch pistons.

Mike Safina replaced the aft liberty lights strand.

Dave Beck installed the new pennants on the starboard halyard.

The A/C unit has been installed in the Ship Store. All that remains inside is trimming it out and nailing down an anti-trip edge to the flooring. This should be completed June 9. Cedar shakes will be installed on the exterior June 13.

The cover supports were removed from the Monomoy and stowed.

**Education:** Nothing definite has been decided regarding family programing; As we enter Phase 2 there will be more capability of programming with restrictions such as masking, physical distancing.

I have resumed contact regarding developing some form of virtual tour including but exclusive to Time looper. Andrew from TimeLooper would like to join us in our zoom meeting. There are some new products from TimeLooper

I have recently made the acquaintance of someone who does student history filming – Excerpt from an e mail - *I helped found this non-profit which normally has its national exhibition in Fairfax, VA the first week of June each year. Here's a short news clip*

<https://americanhistoryfilmproject.org/apple-21-covers-red-carpet-reception-of-fairfax-filmmakers/>.

*Students qualify if they act, edit, or have a hand in creating a short film about a local historic site. When I hosted a public access TV show, I was able to explore these topics further. I am a certified producer and might have some reciprocity (foot in the door) with your local public access station. Perhaps working with the schools and LHS she could help us do something for Lewes and the Lightship.*

**Events:** Nothing to report on next year's Gala.

**Giving:** - Tom Rue mentioned a \$1,000 gift from Ronald Sharp in memory of Helen Schneider. Tom announced Bob Garry would be sending a thank you to the donor.

**Historian, Community Outreach Program:**

**Historian:** We have recruited Bob Kotowski to assist and to advise in writing the document, "The Long Watch". After reviewing data collected so far, we both suggest developing a journal type publication.

Annual or bi-annual publication with several articles containing history, people, Hall of Fame, and projects. This can be done without

the cost of a publisher. We can control the printing cost by arranging that ourselves. Overfalls can distribute to members, sell in "Ship Store" and create it so it becomes a collectible.

Bob Kotowski is a retired news writer for a Philadelphia television news station, published several books, and was a contributor to local journals.

**Community Outreach:** slowly coming back to life. We are in a creative discussion with David Robinson, former Superintendent of Cape Henlopen School District and Dover School District. He is a lifelong resident of Lewes and an amazing individual.

The discussion includes but not limited to engaging different high school groups to become involved in Overfalls activities. There are multiple groups of interest at the school and by engaging conversation with school leaders we may find some great fits.

**Overfalls Opening:** Very little interest at this point...virus concerns.

Suggest a very low-key approach. Memorial Wreath, reading of the names, ringing of the bell, maybe bless the ship and open. Discussed Friday, June 26, 4PM as the opening date.

**Insurance:** No report given

**Membership:** Within the last 2 weeks, we received 15 returned memberships after the E-Blast.

As of last week, Kathy H. told me, we received just one return donation from the Lifetime Membership solicitation. Perhaps we will receive additional returns in the next few weeks.

**Property:** Thanks, and appreciation to Sue Tolbert for her work on getting the grounds ready for summer. Communicating with LHS re status of their permit for rip rap repair, the Society permit has not yet been issued. The project just came off Public Notice on June 2. I will check with DNREC to see when the permit will be issued. Jim Abbott states they have permits but Precision Marine says they do not.

**Ship Store:** Weeding and new planting has been done to the pots and area by the brick wall. I would appreciate it if anyone is in the area to look and water if needed. The hose is connected and reaches to all the areas

Words from Sue Townsend who is responsible for the merchandise – “I did go to the trade show in November and ordered some new merchandise however I haven't heard from either of the vendors that I placed the orders with so I'm not sure what is going on. At this point if they don't ship the merchandise it would be fine since we won't be open for sales in the store anyway.” There has been some e mail discussion regarding getting some merchandise through the office. Can this be discussed at the meeting? I have been in contact with almost all the volunteers. Naturally, we have lost some for this year. If we are open only Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays we have sufficient coverage for Fridays and Sundays, but as this time I am the only one working Saturdays. We obviously need more volunteers!

**Website:** As acknowledgement of support is required by the CARES Grant, our website and eBlast template have been modified to include:

*Funding has been provided from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Delaware Humanities as part of the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.*

In making this modification to our eBlast format, I noted that MailChimp (our eBlast vendor) is now providing the ability to create surveys. This is a *free* service that could be used to poll our eBlast recipients, or any specific group of individuals, about ..... If the Executive Committee see this as a potential useful tool the topic should be discussed at a BOD meeting.

**Historian Community Outreach Program:** I do volunteer to present a historical first person “Momnomoy Story” dealing in part with the U. S. Merchant Marine during WWII. Suggest that it be included with a sundowner evening. Memorial Naming, nothing to report. Opening Ceremony canceled.

**Insurance:** Have requested walkthrough of Foundation property and assets with M Insurance to become fully aware of any additional insurance requirements. Any required protocols regarding quarantines will be fully respected.

**Giving:** No report

**Property:** Permits have been received for riprap repair, waiting for price for extra setup cost from Precision Marine to complete Foundation repairs independent of LHS who will not do repairs until September. Repairs will require entry through LHS property, and they have been contacted re. permission. LHS needs details on what this involves, and Precision Marine will detail requirements to them. I expect we will receive cooperation from LHS. These repairs should not impact opening of the Lightship.

**Membership:** Mailed 570 Membership forms, Letter and return envelope. As of April 13, we have received the following completed membership forms: 89 by mail and 30 by PayPal. Kathy said she will notify me as she receives completed membership forms...she is going to the Post Office once a week. Membership cards/thank you letters have been mailed to all new and returning members.

**Ship Store:** I sent a message to all the volunteers and substitutes from last year and have had a wonderful response! How encouraging. Of course, in the process I was in contact with Sue Townsend who takes care of the inventory and here is what she had to report - "I went down to the store yesterday & it is a mess so the guys still have a lot to do to get it ready before I can put any merchandise back. I was curious with this virus if we would even open for tours due to the restrictions. I have been holding off ordering new shirts because the business I get them from is closed. I reordered a few books but did not want to order too much until we get closer to opening. Nothing to report but if they can keep me in the loop about the store repairs, that would be great."

**Maritime Hall of Fame:** The program for this year has been cancelled. If they have enough applicants, they will also do 2022 to get back on a bi-yearly schedule.

**Web Site:** The web site is now secure. Tom to search for a backup web master.

**Upcoming Events:** July Board of Directors Meeting July 10<sup>th</sup> A Zoom Meeting  
Ship opening July 17<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Adjourned 11:20 am

**Minutes respectfully submitted by.**

**Bob Gibson**  
**Secretary**  
**Overfalls Foundation**