

Paul M. Finnegan

From: Vernal L. Yadon [vly@mbay.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2007 5:19 PM
To: Paul M. Finnegan
Subject: Re: Lighthouse Maintenance

Paul:

Re costs of maintaining the lighthouse. As I wrote earlier, the work the National Park Service reported needed to be done at the lighthouse is based on their examination efforts of quite a few years ago. I believe this was in part used in the book Americas Lighthouses. Some of the work needing to be done was accomplished by the Coast Guard and some by the city. I salvaged a continuous strip of corroded copper flashing that was taken from the light tower and replaced. This was cut up into 1" X 1.5" squares and sold as .25 cents each to gain some funds. We also sold square nails at 3 for .25 cents each. We made a sign "Buy a piece of History."

If the cost estimate begs for an alternative, turning the building over to the State and their historic buildings program was discussed early on. At that time the whole 25 acre Lighthouse Reservation, including what was to become the 2nd nine of the city golf course would have been jeopardized. The city didn't want to loose the chance of obtaining the property and actually used preservation of the lighthouse and openspace as part of the goal. About that time, the city also began charging TOT which like all taxes was resisted. Part of an agreement was that the city would use some of the new funds to see that the lighthouse was open to tourists visitation to bring in additional visitors and hence profits to local businesses. The Museum was directed to open the building using volunteers. When the volunteer option began to run out because of overuse of the same people, we were allowed to hire a part-time minimum wage person to open and close the place. Cliff Gallant was our first hiree. He was interested in the historical perspectives and ended up writing a number of articles on lighthouse personnel.

Charging admission to the museum means that someone would have to be hired to take money. It also means that the city will be withdrawing the only public restroom that tourists can find.

VernAt 04:42 PM 2/10/2007, you wrote:

> Vern: Jim has approved my agenda report re the Lighthouse
> maintenance. Thanks for heads up on items in basement. I put them
> in freezer. Dan Davis has asked that the charging of an admission
> fee be placed on the agenda for the March Museum Board meeting. I
> shall keep you posted. Thanks Paul
> <<AgendaReport_PFinnegan.docnEW.doc To Jean Mariel.doc>>
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