

OMPHS MINUTES MARCH 7, 2024

Co-President Tom Dalluge called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. 27 members and guests were in attendance. Program Co-Chair Ann Swaney introduced the evening's presenter, Ken Pratt. The title of his excellent presentation was "A Light On a Point."

Clad in a replica uniform of the U.S. Lighthouse Service @1890, Pratt outline historical events for 150 years following the U.S. founding in 1776. Westward expansion was taking place into our Northwest Territory. Water was the principal highway for the transport of raw materials and finished products. Lumber fueled expansion into Michigan. Eventually there were 129 lighthouses here. Funds for our Mission Point Lighthouse here were appropriated by Congress in 1859, but the Civil War intervened and it was not put into service until September 10, 1870.. It was fitted with a 5th order Fresnel lens, and was therefore visible for 15 miles. Pratt told of various lighthouse keepers; the longest serving was John Lane for 25 years. (His close connection to our historic Dougherty House here was pointed out later during our question and answer period.) Mr. Pratt also recounted the sinking of the ship *Metropolis* just east of Lighthouse Point. He displayed a 37 star U.S. flag, appropriate to the time the lighthouse was built. He also had charts of waterway shipping routes, the Manitou Passage and the orders of Fresnel lenses. During its active existence the lighthouse was inspected and serviced by the U.S. Lighthouse Service, and later the U.S. Coast Guard. Mission Point Light was closed and automated in 1933. The offshore buoy in the water was installed there at that time.

Tom Dalluge called out meeting to order about 7 p.m. after a cookie break. He announced the American Chestnut seedling planting to take place the day after this meeting and that containers were still needed. He commended Marty Klein for his assistance. He also announced that a 1912 Olympic athlete was named Martin Klein. Julie Alexander announced a State Historical Society online presentation on famed horticulturalist Liberty Hyde Bailey. Tom and Julie encouraged all of us to bring guests to our April meeting. Chris Rieser will be speaking on Peter Dougherty.

Following the announcements the Minutes of the February meeting were approved. Dean Francis gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$25,413 in unrestricted funds. He noted that we have increased the amount of honoraria for our monthly speakers to \$100.

Dean brought up an idea which came up at our last Executive Committee meeting. To honor Boy Scout Troop 34's assistance with our Memorial Tree Planting project throughout many years, we propose to make the troop an Appreciation Gift not to exceed \$500. Many Scouts have also done Eagle Scout projects in the peninsula's parks and historic sites. After discussion, Judy Weaver moved, and Ann Swaney seconded a motion to do that. The motion carried. Ken and Judy Weaver will confer with the troop's leader Dave Weaver (no relation) to discuss the next step in this project.

Julie Alexander reported that her letter asking to use Lighthouse Park for this year's Log Cabin Day will be on the Consent Agenda for the next Township Board Meeting. Tom Dalluge said that Phyllis Cooley, Log Cabin Day Chair, has her committees established and has been in touch with our usual presenters.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Weaver