

## President's Report for 2015-2016

A year ago at the first annual meeting, we were celebrating the Coast Guard approval of the Town, and by extension, the Friends to be the recipient of the License for Nobska. In many of our minds was the thought, "What do we do now?"

Today, we celebrate the Town's approval and execution of the License and Memorandum of Understanding to take control of Falmouth and Woods Hole's most cherished landmark. And, maybe for the few of us, the thought going through our minds is, "What do we do now?"

A year ago, the question was a real one. This year, though, both the Town and the Friends are confident that we know what we have to do now.

You have heard the reports of the committees and they demonstrate what we have accomplished in the past twelve months. The word "WE", means the Town, the Friends and the entire Falmouth and Woods Hole communities supporting this most important voyage.

- We have grown the organization to be a solid operational group to represent the Town.
- We have raised the consciousness of the community and excited it by the prospect of controlling the site's destiny in local hands.
- We have spoken to uncounted individuals and community groups to share the vision of Nobska and have received back unanimous enthusiastic support.
- The community has backed up this support with generous contributions, thanks to the Friends' Development Committee's tireless efforts.
- Our Communications Committee and Development Consultant have created effective web, FaceBook and Twitter sites to reach out to the world – and the world has responded with active participation.
- Our Administration committee has developed a comprehensive policies and procedures manual so that we can more easily hit

the road running when Nobska comes under local stewardship. As far as we can tell, we are the only lighthouse organization with such a manual.

- Thanks to our aggressive Facilities Committee, we have selected a local group of design professionals to be interviewed and are ready to issue Requests For Proposals within the next week or two.

Many thank yous.

First to the Town of Falmouth. Julian Suso, Frank Duffy and Heather Harper have helped with day-to-day efforts. Board of Selectmen, Doug Jones, Pat Flynn, Becky Moffitt, Sue Moran. Special thanks to Sam Patterson for being our link, attending many meetings and serving on the nominating committee.

State and Federal Delegations have been fantastic supporters. Tim Madden, in whose district Nobska is located, but just as dedicated, Dave Vieira, not only as State Representative but also Town Moderator. State Senator Vinnie DeMacedo and very helpful liaison Lance Lambros.

US Delegation - Congressman Keating, US Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey.

US Coast Guard. Captain John KZ Kondratowicz. Mary Ellen Wilczynski. And US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Steve Wagner and Jeff Thomas.

Business Community. Chamber presidents Jay Zavala and Michael Kasparian.

Board of Directors members. As you may know, the Board also is also represented on the Boards of our four founding historical organizations.

Catherine O'Brien Bumpus – Woods Hole Community Association - Original Board member transitioning to Fearless Leader

Bob Grosch – Woods Hole Historical Museum – Our buildings expert

Charlotte Harris – Kidnapped - Took scattered written sections of the Master Plan and rewrote them to make sense. CG identified the Town and our submittal as best they had received.

Mary Harris – Falmouth Historical Society – Our Treasurer. Started this with Mark Schmidt in January 2014 when most of us did not know of CG's plans. Chaired most of the meetings of the exploratory committee.

Steve Junker – Woods Hole Community Association – Chaired Communications Committee. Spearheaded the temporary logo that we like so much it became our permanent one, so far.

Steve Levy – Nobska Neighborhood representative - Brought thirty years of Nobska experience and responsible for the bringing together the Nobska neighbors for financial support.

Arlene Lowenstein – Woods Hole Historical Museum – Intensely involved from beginning. Chairs Nominating Committee. You will hear from Arlene after I am through here and she needs to wake you up.

Rocco Maffei – Falmouth Historical Society – Rocco's legal and military mind cuts through a lot and would identify potential issues most of us didn't see.

Charlie McCaffrey – Historic Highfield – Charlie co-chairs the Facilities Committee with Steve Levy. This team has brought us to the stage of having architects retained. Charlie brings invaluable experience from other historic restoration and adaptive reuse projects with which he has been involved.

Barbara Meissner – Historic Highfield – Barbara chairs the Development Committee and has worked hard to develop a fundraising way forward.

Jonathan Polloni – Woods Hole Historical Commission – Our Corporate Clerk and the repository of our corporate records.

Susan Shephard – Historic Highfield – Susan plays so many roles, particularly fundraising. Terrific instinct with regard to how to proceed. Has shared her house many times for mailing parties.

Philip Richardson – Nobska Beach Association – Also a neighbor, Phil provides terrific inside knowledge.

Eric Turkington – Woods Hole Community Association – Eric chairs the License Committee and has worked to bring us to where we are today.

Committee members:

Judith Fenwick – Nominating Committee

Sam Patterson – Nominating Committee

Nancy Porter – Highfield Hall – Administration Committee and creator of Policies and Procedures Manual

Rich Worob – Old Stone Dock Association – Facilities Committee

Organizational contributors – Woods Hole Foundation, Falmouth Rotary Club, Old Stone Dock Association, Nobska Farms

Woods Hole neighbors – not only moral support, but generous contributors.

Four non profits – Falmouth Historical Society, Historic Highfield, Woods Hole Community Association, Woods Hole Historical Commission. Also providing support in many ways, the Old Stone Dock Association, Kevin Doyle President.

The next stage of this voyage will require more effort, more community involvement, more community support and more – you guessed it – money. As Churchill once said about the victory in Africa in 1943, “This is not the beginning of the end; it is the end of the

beginning.” We look forward to taking the next steps in making Nobska the worthy icon of our community it should be. We hope you all will join us. Thank you.

Arlene Lowenstein for Friends Nominating Committee.