

Accomplishments 2018-2019

Could you have imagined we would be where we are today at our first annual meeting in 2015, just four years ago. We had a five year plan, but we really didn't know how we were going to do it. Today, we are at the brink of starting construction on our last phase and completing the goal of our five year plan ahead of schedule.

We were brand new in January 2015, but we weren't without resources. Our team had bonded the prior year as part of what was known as the exploratory committee. And we weren't without significant experiences and talents. The committee was comprised of board members from other organizations. Further, many of us had been there done that in earlier lives and endeavors. While it did involve a lot "making things up", what we did had a strong foundation of intuition being rewarded in past accomplishments.

Regardless, I don't think any of us expected the success we have had. It didn't come easy, because it took a lot of dedication and cooperation among all of us. All of us having a keen sense of the mission and a lot of confidence in each other. I applaud you all.

Here is a teaser. At the Board of Directors meeting, Kathy Walrath will have an important announcement about Nobska's future. For those who have not heard the rumor, it should be a nice surprise. Also, please vote for Kathy as president for 2019-2020. Kathy has been working the job for the past year and I look forward to working for her the rest of the year.

Let's recap a busy and productive year.

- Two major Community Preservation Grants Secured – CPC Grant for \$507K approved last April and \$604K approved by CPC and town Finance committee. Approval of that one is expected next month at Town Meeting. Thank you Charlotte Harris. Attend precinct meetings for support and talk to town meeting members.
- Opened the Keepers' House in spring for use – Thank you Catherine, Sam Patterson, Bob Grosch and Jeff Thomas
- Expanded our lighthouse tower tour for the summer through fall in 2018. Thank you Jeff Thomas, Margaret Sulanouska and all the volunteers. People from almost all US states and territories and about 30 countries attended the tours.
- Nobska Moments traveling photography show and auction for entire summer of 2018, generating extraordinary visibility. Also, two student art shows from Morse Pond and Falmouth High Schools. Thank you Barbara Meissner and all the volunteers, especially Karen Rinaldo who hosted a reception at her Gallery on Main.
- Completed the lighthouse tower improvements "punch list" in spring of 2018.

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- Numerous organization and neighborhood groups had social events at Nobska, including a 50th anniversary party for Sam and Hazel Patterson.
- Thanks again to Barbara Meissner for furnishing the front room of the Keepers' House for receiving guests and informal meetings. It made us all feel at home.
- In the spring, we started accumulating maritime and nautical artifacts to use as interim displays thanks to the generosity of a number of individuals that responded to our call. Captain Henry Schroeder donated a collection of nautical artifacts. Captain Schroeder retired from the US Merchant Marine and is a Falmouth native. Ann Ames who lived with her uncle at Nobska when he was keeper also donated a number of items.
- We were very fortunate to have Kat – yes another Katherine – Johnson join us as a part-time intern. Kat's husband is a Navy officer attached to WHOI and is completing graduate studies. Kat is also enrolled in graduate studies of museum science at Johns Hopkins University and her expertise has been extremely valuable.
- Much thanks to Bob Grosch, Jeff Thomas and Tom Walrath for all the maintenance improvements done regularly at Nobska. Worth mentioning again is when Bob went beyond the call of duty when he removed filthy basement insulation that was full of rodent nests and droppings.
- Much thanks to the Facilities Committee who worked tirelessly through 2018 to get the plans ready for Keepers' House improvements. The Committee worked diligently to review detailed proposals from prospective construction management firms. The committee determined that Dellbrook JKS would be the best to team up with us. Catherine provided outstanding support for the committee's activities.
- Thanks to David Forsberg for stepping up three times in 2018. He agreed to my request that he join the Board of Directors. Then he agreed to be on the Capital Campaign, Then he agreed to co-chair the committee. He then – I guess four now – sweet-talked Ann Forsberg to be a member of the committee and then did the same for Eric Wisch to be his co-chair. Yikes, I am big-time in debt, David!
- Thanks to every member of the Board for reaching 100% participation in the capital campaign by making very generous pledges.
- The Capital Campaign hit the ground running. Numerous prospect meetings by all members of the committee, with Catherine and David doing most of them. The campaign is wonderfully staffed by Kate Neubauer and Catherine.
- Thanks to Catherine and many Board members and volunteers for the Nobska Newsletter. Many mailing parties got the newsletter out into the community, generating good will and receiving individual contributions.
- As we meet, Architectural and Engineering for the Keepers' House restoration is nearing completion by Brown Lindquist Fenuccio and Raber. Special thanks to Kathryn Giardi and Maria Raber for all the great support. And to Kurt Raber for overseeing it all.

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- We opened the restored tower for Falmouth Christmas by the Sea Weekend with caroling and refreshments at the Keepers' House on Friday night and tours on Saturday with Santa arriving to welcome the children. Thanks to Catherine, Jeff Thomas and their volunteers for erecting the wreath for the weekend activities.
- Great thanks are due to our treasurer, Mary Harris. It is a very time consuming job. Also, she keeps us in good stead with both our state and federal regulators regarding our 501C3 non-profit status. Mary, with Charlotte's assistance, has kept the construction budget updated. Thanks also to Steve Levy and Pat Burke for serving on Mary's Finance Committee.
- Thanks also to Susan Shephard who chaired the Nominating Committee this year. It is always a difficult and time-consuming job and Susan made it look painless.
- Thanks to Sally Colacicco again as our Recording Secretary on the Board of Directors.
- Thanks for the support of the Executive Committee, comprised of the Officers – VP Kathy Walrath, Susan Shephard, Treasurer Mary Harris, Corporate Clerk Jonathan Pollonu, Jeff Thomas and Catherine Bumpus, Executive Director.
- Lastly and most importantly, we have been extremely blessed to have Catherine O'Brien Bumpus as our Executive Director. Could we have anyone better?? Of course not. I have truly enjoyed working with Catherine the past four plus years. Thank you for keeping me in line and focused, Catherine. One of the things you might not know is how effectively she has worked with the town and other organizations this year. One effort that goes to our bottom line is working with the town building department. Not only has Catherine established a fast-track approval process, but also the Board of Selectmen has waived our building permit fee. Please join me in giving Catherine a standing ovation.