



## HUDSON-ATHENS LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

[www.hudsonathenslighthouse.org](http://www.hudsonathenslighthouse.org)

December 27, 2021

Dear Commodore Reh:

Last summer the Mohawk-Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs wrote in support of the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society's (HALPS) 2021 grant application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to fund historic restoration/protection work of the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse (HAL). We are enormously grateful for your support.

Great news! We are very excited and grateful that OPRHP awarded us the full \$500,000! This will enable us to secure, restore, and protect the infrastructure of HAL's 147-year-old building which, because it is constructed of wood w/brick façade, is in real danger of being lost.

Standing in the middle of the Hudson River, HAL has withstood 147 years of relentless environmental and marine buffeting and assault. Cumulatively, this has taken a substantial toll on HAL's entire building. Further, When the US Coast Guard automated the navigation light in 1949, the residential light keeper was no longer needed and the original 1874 architectural splendor and the structural integrity of HAL's building and underwater foundation suffered from neglect. HALPS was founded in 1984 and secured title to HAL in 2000 with the explicit mission to restore and preserve HAL.

This funded work mitigates damage that absolutely must be addressed to protect HAL's building against further vulnerabilities. It includes a new flat roof, new slate mansard roofs, gutters, downspouts, and a new staircase for increased safety and access. This critical work is Phase 1 of 4 Phases to completely restore HAL above and below the waterline. Our engineering consultant Proper & O'Leary identified the activities under this grant as the essential start of the comprehensive work that will also restore and protect the 200 wooden foundation pilings that support HAL's building. Complete restoration will be a logistically complex and financially expensive undertaking expected to cost \$3-4 million.

HALPS is committed to seeing this project through. HAL is an integral part of the Hudson and Athens contemporary sense of place with historical, recreational, tourism, cultural, economic, and other significant appeals.

**We welcome the Council as a partner in this once-in-a-century opportunity and obligation to protect HAL's structural and architectural integrity for the enjoyment and admiration of many generations.**

**HALPS will keep you apprised of our progress and look to you for continued support and partnership as we move forward. We invite you to share any ideas, contacts and/or opportunities that you have or are aware of that will allow us to identify potential funding support.**

Again, we thank you for your support in securing the OPRHP grant and joining us in our mission to preserve the beloved, iconic Hudson-Athens Lighthouse.

With gratitude,

**Carol J Gans**

Carol J. Gans, HALPS President

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