

President 2016-2017

Thank you for the honor of re-electing me as the Friends' president for the next twelve months. It is truly an honor which I am not sure I deserve. I look around at the Friends Board of Directors, the committee members and the rest of the supporters here and I think any one of you could do this job better than I can. I am very blessed to have an executive director of the caliber of Catherine O'Brien Bumpus to lean on for the next year and I will depend on her to give me a sharp dope slap whenever the occasion warrants.

The Full Moon Tonight

Moon rises 6:20pm; Sun sets 6:56pm. Tonight, stand at lighthouse facing east to see the moon rise. Walk down to the ledge to bide the time. Walk back to lighthouse and face west to watch the setting sun. Tomorrow night, if it is to be clear, the procedure would be in reverse, with sun setting before the moonrise.

March: The Worm Moon

Snow slowly begins to melt, the ground softens, and earthworms show their heads again and their castings can be found. Other signs of spring gave rise to other variations: the cawing of crows (the Crow Moon); the formation of crusts on the snow from repeated thawing and freezing (the Crust Moon); and the time for tapping maple trees (the Sap Moon). Christian settlers also called this the Lenten Moon and considered it the last moon of winter.

I imagine we could describe this annual meeting regarding Nobska in astronomical terms, trying to fit the rise of the Town and the Friends in concert with the descendancy of the Coast Guard. But, it just doesn't fit. We are in the process of joining a three way cooperative pact of the three entities. We join together for the care and sustenance of what some might call Falmouth's most important landmark.

We will travel together for a period of time until an annual meeting some years in the future where one of the three will leave this pact and the remaining Town and Friends will continue the voyage together. That is the long-term future. But what about the short-term?

Immediate short-term goals are to see the License fully executed. We predict April and will be joining the Town next week for a meeting with Coast Guard to schedule a public signing of the document.

Also in April, we predict architects and engineers swarming over the property to identify physical needs and estimated costs.

We hope to work out with the CG some of the more immediate needs and ones that do not require extensive architectural plans.

We want to provide for security on the property and will be looking for immediate methods to do so.

Before the next annual meeting, our goal is to have some significant progress on the restoration of the tower and adaptive reuse of the Keepers' Houses underway. It is very important to demonstrate to the Greater Falmouth and Vineyard Sound communities that Nobska Point Light will be the cherished icon we all hope it will be.

Priority, of course, will be raising the necessary funds to implement structural and cosmetic improvements. The only way we can accomplish the plans for Nobska is the generous contributions to the effort by private individuals, businesses, charitable foundations and public historic preservation grants. This means we and we means all of us.

We would very much like to open the entire property to public access this summer as best we can. Later in a year or two, after restoration and adaptive reuse improvements, we hope to make the keepers' houses open to the community. The two connected buildings will be the perfect place to showcase the town and region's rich maritime history. We trust all of you will help us achieve this dream.