

Friends Board Members
(current 9/2021)

John Vogl, President
Christina Vogl, Vice President
Jenn Bogard, Secretary
Frank Pierce, Treasurer
Steve Atherton
Ron Barrett
Linda Collins
Bill Cooper
Chris Fields

Newsletter assembled by the
Friends of the Plum Island Light
PO Box 381
Newburyport, MA 01950

Contact the Friends by email:
friendsofpilight@gmail.com

Friends of the Plum Island Light Fall, 2021 Newsletter

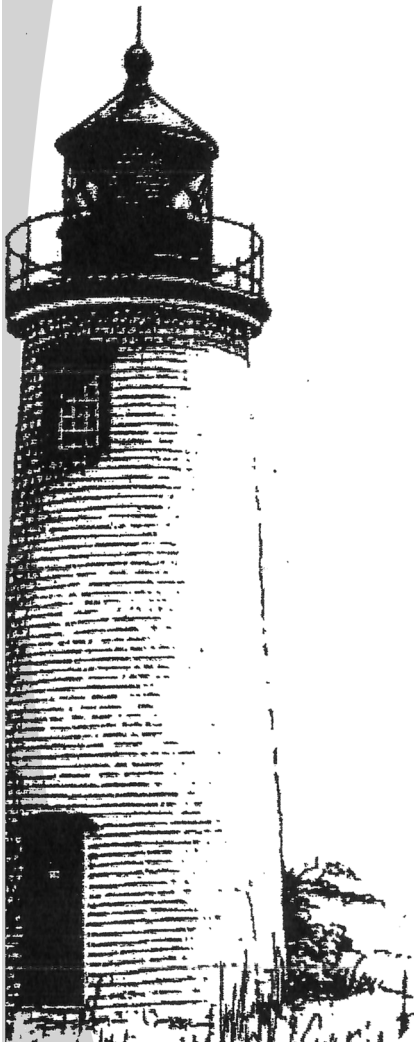
We hope this finds you and yours well. Covid has been at the forefront of more than a year of challenges for all of us, our little Lighthouse included. As many of you know, without enough room for social distancing inside our tower we made the decision to delay tours until next year. While case numbers started trending down mid-summer, the recent appearance of the delta variant affirmed that we made the right call to place the safety of our guests and volunteers first and remain closed. We are hopeful that by the next Summer the virus will be behind us and we can begin again to welcome visitors to the Light.

Now is a good time to look back on all that the Friends have been able to accomplish through the years. We are a collection of neighbors and friends who serve on the Board or otherwise volunteer at openings or events to take care of our Light. This quiet period has provided opportunities for maintenance of the light and the completion of a few major projects.

The last few years have been especially productive, representative of the 30-year foundation that the Friends have established for keeping our Light in an excellent state of repair. In 2017 we completed a project with funding from the Newburyport Community Preservation Act to clean and repaint the entire

tower and to replace two aging windows, giving the structure a fresh, clean and bright appearance. Soon after, members Bill Cooper and Steve Atherton undertook a project to replace the catwalk railing and seal holes drilled into the vertical posts that had begun to deteriorate from rust. This proactive work allowed us to close off the leaks and add life to the post and railings. In 2019, we were blessed with a generous donation from The Nancy Weare Foundation. This donation enabled us to move forward with a costly and complex repair to the cracked bent glass as well as

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Board member Bill Cooper surveys repairs and supervises contractors from New England Glass and Finishing to repair cracked glass in the lantern room.

the cleaning and repainting of the tin ceiling inside the lantern room. Bent glass is unique even among historic lighthouses and the fix involved fabricating custom replacements. Fortunately, we were able to use local talent from New England Glass and Finishing in Salem New Hampshire to create, install and weatherproof exact replacements. At the same time we completed the formal process of removing the tower's blackout zones, enabling transparency to view the lens and light from all directions. Most recently we replaced the stairway treads, provided regular cleaning, and kept up the landscaping, as well as the ever-popular brick program. This year we logged almost 2 dozen bricks that have been engraved and installed in our paths.

These recent projects fully complement the many improvements carried out by our long-term members in the mid-90s/early 2000's, such as re-shingling the exterior, re-plastering the interior, adding new flooring and new stairway lighting. At over 100 years old, the Tower remains structurally and functionally sound. Contributions of time, talent and treasure have added up to a Lighthouse that is in excellent condition and looks perhaps better now than ever before.

Our mission remains to maintain and provide

preservation for our Light and to provide opportunities for education. While we have had to remain closed due to Covid we invite you to join us in recognizing all these accomplishments and we ask for your continued support.

Last is a call for help. For a small yearly donation become a member of the Friends. These small contributions are the heart and soul of our organization. Please fill out the form below and send in your membership. Also, please encourage friends and neighbors to join.

If you appreciate the Light, or use it to find your way back from sea or across Joppa Flats, we ask for your help.



Ceiling of the repainted lantern room, painted by 2Penn Painting and Roofing in August 2020

FRIENDS OF THE PLUM ISLAND LIGHT

Membership application for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Contribution Amount:

Annual Member: ___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 _____ Other

Lifetime Member: ___ \$200 Lifetime Business Member: ___ \$400

Name: _____

Address (if new membership): _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

New membership: ___ Renewal: ___ Would you like to be a volunteer? ___

Would you like to make a tax deductible contribution? _____

Make checks payable to: Friends of Plum Island Light, P.O. Box 381, Newburyport, MA 01950

A 501(c)(3) Organization

Office use: Date of pmt _____ Amt of pmt _____ Check # _____