Grant Proposal Boilerplate

Our Organization

The Friends of Wood Island Lighthouse ("FOWIL") is a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation ("ALF"), an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to the saving of Lighthouses around the country. ALF is currently the owner or licensee of 17 lighthouses located primarily in New England. It has formed "Friends" groups to take responsibility for the renovation and preservation of each of these historic structures. FOWIL is one of those groups.

Our governing structure is a nine-member Executive Committee who serve two-year staggered terms. Accordingly, either four or five members are elected annually in November. Most Executive Committee member have a designated area of responsibility. These positions and the current office-holders are:

Chair - Bradford W. Coupe
Vice Chair, Restoration - Sean Murphy
Vice Chair, Fundraising – Sandra L. Ragan
Secretary – Judith MacGillivray
Treasurer – Shirley Stallings
Membership – Anita W. Coupe
Public Relations – Diane Noble
History - Sheri Poftak
At large - Vacant

Wood Island Lighthouse is one of Maine's oldest lighthouses. Its construction was authorized by Thomas Jefferson in 1808. It stands on an eight-acre parcel at the eastern tip of Wood Island, a 45-acre uninhabited island located about one-half mile off the coast of Biddeford Pool, ME. The balance of the island is a wildlife sanctuary owned by the Maine Audubon Society with one small parcel that is privately owned.

As part of its formal strategic plan, FOWIL has adopted a four-part mission:

- To restore and preserve an important local landmark, the Wood Island Lighthouse, for the enrichment and enjoyment of residents, visitors and future generations
- To document and preserve the historical significance of the lighthouse and honor the men and women who served as its caretakers
- To foster community involvement and appreciation for Wood Island Lighthouse through public access and education.
- To preserve the natural habitat of the island and to incorporate educational programs devoted to the plant and animal species that inhabit the island.

In pursuit of those goals, in the year since it was formed, FOWIL has accomplished many things:

- Raised more than $75,000 through solicitations from Community individuals and businesses and a "Fresh Paint" art auction.

- Attracted over 180 supporting members
- Purchased a 24-foot landing craft-style boat capable of transporting visitors and construction materials to the island.
- Performed preliminary cleaning and maintenance of the structure and its grounds.
- Conducted summer season historical tours of the lighthouse serving ____ visitors in 2004.
- Completed and submitted to the Maine Historic Preservation Office comprehensive architectural plans for the renovation of the Light Station buildings.
- Compiled a large and growing documentary history of the Lighthouse and conducted numerous "living history" recordings of former Keepers and their families.
- Formed a partnership with the University of Maine's Gulf of Maine Oceanographic Observation System Project which is studying the ocean characteristics (wave action, currents, etc.) of the Gulf of Maine. A formal agreement has been reached for FOWIL to host a high frequency Radar installation on the Light Station property to monitor wave action that will complement other installations around the rim of the Gulf of Maine.
- Developing programs in conjunction with local libraries and schools to educate children on the historic significance of lighthouses.
- Opened the lighthouse to an Elderhostel annual program studying lighthouses.

All of our work has been performed entirely by volunteers who receive no compensation.
For more information, including our complete Strategic Plan, historic accounts and photographs, visit our website at www.woodislandlighthouse.org.

What we plan to do –

Restoration

Our restoration plans, currently pending with the State, contemplate restoring the Light Station to its appearance at the beginning of the 20th Century. When the State approves our plans (expected in the late Spring of 2005), we will be poised to undertake restoration work, subject to funding. The overall projected cost is approximately $380,000.

The Light Station property includes a boathouse, separated from the lighthouse by a half-mile long raised wooden walkway; a small stone oil house; the keeper's house itself and the 57-foot rubble stone tower. The tower and keeper's house are structurally sound, so restoration of those structures will involve refurbishing interior and exterior trim and finishes with changes to conform to the historic accuracy of the chosen period. The kitchen and bath in the keeper's house will require major renovation. The stone oil house is considered to be the most significant architectural structure. Weather and lichen have badly deteriorated the mortar necessitating major rehabilitation ultimately. Stopgap pointing of the stone and restoration of door and window framing is the immediate preservation need.

All work will be contracted to and overseen by professional contractors, but we will use an eager cadre of volunteers to assist where possible. Off-shore construction carries a heavy premium, but the boat we have acquired is designed to transport construction material and will yield

significant savings. The work lends itself to discrete segments and phasing. Projects for which we seek financial support include any or all of the following:

1. Boathouse
   Timeframe - Summer 2005
   Projected Cost - $3000

    a. Shingle replacements, painting repairs to doors and windows.

2. Wooden Walkway
   Timeframe - Summer 2005
   Projected Cost - $1000

    a. Install removable railings on high spots

3. Oil House
   Timeframe – Summer 2005
   Projected Cost - $10,000

    a. Stone mortar pointing, roof repair, interior cleanup and painting, and replacement/repair of door and windows and framing.

4. Keeper's House Renovation
   Timeframe – Summers 2005 – 2006
   Projected Cost - $200,000

    a. Interior demolition, removal of porch enclosure
    b. Repair interior walls, window and door frames, and replace electrical wiring replacement; upgrade bathroom plumbing and fixtures; install new bath on first floor.
    c. Complete replacement of period kitchen
    d. Construct new porch floor, pillars and railing and replace exterior decorative trim and shingles as needed
    e. Interior refinishing of floors and interior and exterior painting

5. Enclosed Passageway to Tower
   Timeframe – Summers 2005 – 2006
   Projected Cost - $35,000

    a. Replace flooring, partitions and repairs to walls interior and exterior

6. Tower Staircase
   Timeframe - Summer 2005
   Projected Cost - $45,000

a. Repoint and repair stone spiral staircase and interior rope railing and stanchions
b. Restore and paint metal staircase at top of stone staircase
c. Install external wall safety railing

7. Tower
   Timeframe - Summers 2005-2007
   Projected Cost - $85,000

   a. Pointing, and repair to stonework, restore metal stairs, painting interior and exterior.

Historic Research and Community Education Programs

Our research of the lighthouse's history is ongoing and has largely been funded by the volunteers who are doing the work. As the effort progresses, we plan to develop and offer for sale a written history of the lighthouse in two forms: a small booklet for visitors and a larger comprehensive book as an in-depth history of the Lighthouse. We expect, as well, to develop presentations including visual aids for educational settings at libraries and schools. We have not incurred expenses for these activities to date. We have obtained a display kiosk and a pictorial backdrop for presentations professionally prepared and donated.

Timetable: Ongoing – expected increase in level, summer 2005
Projected Cost - $2000 per quarter for materials, rentals and transportation.

Fundraising

As noted, we raised $75,000 in our first year of operation. This success resulted from a combination of activities. Membership dues and individual, corporate and small foundation donations have accounted for approximately $50,000. Almost $20,000 was raised at our first annual "Fresh Paint Day" when more than 50 artists assembled on July 11, 2004 to paint at the island and surrounding area. Their donated paintings were auctioned off in the evening.

A Fundraising Committee has made two solicitation mailings and has made personal contacts to businesses in the neighboring communities. We are submitting grant applications to foundations that support historic preservation, recreation and educational organizations. Those efforts are ongoing.

For the Summer of 2005 we plan the following:

a. Second Annual Fresh Paint Day

b. Resumption of boat tours to the island on weekends and at least one weekday evening

c. Sales of commemorative goods - mugs, glassware, etc.