



**CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
COVE POINT LIGHT STATION COMMISSION
Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Calvert Marine Museum Cove Point Light Station Commission was held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at Cove Point Visitors Center.

PRESENT: Dr. Daniel Curry, Albert K. Lane III

ABSENT: Dr. Henry Gabelnick, Valerie Miller

STAFF: Jeff Murray, CMM Director; Rachelle Green, CMM Deputy Director; Marci Kreamer, CMM Events & Facilities Coordinator; Kathleen Porecki, CMM Office Specialist I

1. Call to Order

Mr. Murray called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. With two members present, a quorum was not achieved. The meeting was held, and no actions were taken.

2. Approval of October 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Section 7, page 3, the first bullet point: The Commission recommends updating the wording to, "Mr. Lane presented a map for discussion of the downed trees and erosion in front of county property, adjacent to border."

Without a quorum, the Committee was not able to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman to One-Year Terms

Without a quorum, the Commission was unable to nominate and elect officers for a one-year term.

4. CPLSC 2024 Annual Report

Thank you to Mr. Lane for preparing the report. Mr. Murray sent it to the Board of County Commissioners, who accepted the report. The Bylaws state the BOCC will approve the report, though actually, they accept it because it is considered information.

5. Strategic Planning Update - Jeff Murray

CMM staff are working with Lord Cultural Resources and are two-thirds of the way through the process of developing a strategic plan for the museum. We are selecting teams for four broad strategic goals, which include elements of Cove Point and the Lore Oyster House offsite properties. The goals are broad enough that everything we want to do will fit under them. The goals are:

- Make the museum a destination
- Maximize the museum's statewide and regional impact

- Improve site and building functionality
- Ensure future sustainability

It is an all-encompassing plan that includes the CMM Society.

6. Capital Improvement Projects

- Completed** - Ms. Green reported the Keeper's Cottage steps and the HVAC unit were replaced, and the quarters have been repainted.
- Upcoming** - We initially entered a project request for the Cove Point campus to focus on the Coast Guard brick building improvements. The Coast Guard inspected the tower and found the lantern room windows were leaking. CCG Buildings & Grounds workers discovered the windows are cracked. We reconfigured our request to focus on the tower, lead paint abatement in the lantern room, resurfacing the exterior of the lighthouse where the stucco is coming off, inspecting the interior mortar between the bricks, and replacing the windows. Ms. Green identified ICC, a contractor that specializes in historic lighthouse preservation, and they provided a quote for an inspection and put together a phased project for the upcoming capital project cycle. We have \$267,000 in the CIP budget. We are unsure how much this project will cost, and hope to find other funding to work on the other projects. Work will begin after July 1, 2025. Windows will be done as phase 1; the other work as phase 2. Work on the brick building roof has already been approved. We are sprucing up the buildings for the 250th Anniversary.

7. Site Update - Rachelle Green and Marci Kreamer

- Campus Grounds Update** - Ms. Carsley and Ms. Merkel wrote a grant to the Cove Point Historic Trust to create a butterfly sanctuary on the Cove Point grounds by planting native milkweed. With the help of Walls Plumbing and CCG Buildings & Grounds, we located an area by a dune that has some vegetation already, and will plant milkweed in that area to bring the butterflies and stabilize the dune area. The septic mound will be seeded with wildflowers, which have shallow roots. We will hear about the grant on June 24. If awarded, funds will be distributed in July.

CCG Buildings & Grounds staff are maintaining the grounds.

- Lighthouse Volunteers** - Ms. Reid and Mr. Allor did a training the last week in April and had 10-12 people attend. There are lots of volunteers interested. Volunteers have signed up to cover most of the dates. Mr. Lane shared that Ken Mowbray has been the Sunday afternoon and holidays volunteer for many years, but he can no longer do it. The timeslots he worked have not been easy to fill. Ms. Green will check the schedule with Volunteer Coordinator Sherry Reid.

8. Recruitment of Additional Commission Members

There are two vacancies to be filled. Brenda Hollweger and Leslie Garcia have chosen not to reapply. Mr. Murray sent the recommendation memo to the BOCC for the approval of Dr. Curry's reappointment. Mr. Lane recommends letting applicants for the CMM Board of Governors know that they can consider serving on the CMM Cove Point Light Station Commission.

9. Bylaws - Annual Review - The Commission members in attendance reviewed the Bylaws. Staff will send the Memorandum of Agreement from the BOCC to the Commission members. Mr. Murray reported that the BOCC is considering shutting down some commissions that do not have enough members.

10. Beach Erosion Update - Albert Lane - Commissioner Mike Hart visited and walked the beach. While he was here, he called Delegate Todd Morgan. Commissioner Hart and Mr. Plattner, the president of the Cove Point Beach Association, agreed to speak when Mr. Plattner returns from travel, by the end of the month. We need to explore the stretch of beach from the lighthouse to the cove that can be more protected from the cove. Commissioner Hart was receptive to exploring ways to help resiliency.

Ryan St. Laurent, Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist, Conservation District, has done a study on how the whole shoreline in Calvert County could be made more resilient. The higher the sea becomes, the stronger the storms will become, and the more we will have to weather going forward. Mr. St. Laurent's vision is to have hard materials upon which new oyster reefs could be seeded and developed. There is a general reluctance to talk about hard jetties, as they affect the beach between areas and the freshwater marsh.

11. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Lane shared an opinion piece from the Washington Post, "All the Light We Would Rather Not See," encouraging people to be a little modest with environmental light. It was written when people were stringing Christmas lights and creating light pollution. It encourages people to think about good stewardship. When we illuminate properties at night, it has negative impacts on migratory bird life. There is an impact beyond what we think.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next tentative meeting date is Monday, October 20, 2025, at 3 p.m. at the Cove Point Visitors Center.

13. Adjournment

With no further business of the Cove Point Light Station Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.