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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Lighthouse Repairs Face Delay

New costs, bad winter may push start time from spring to fall

By Danny Schrafel

dschrafel@longislandernews.com

Plans to begin a project this spring to repair the damaged foundation of the Huntington Lighthouse and reinforce the rip rap protecting it from future deterioration may be delayed until the fall.

Pam Setchell, president of the Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society, said on Friday she has “great reservations” about whether the project will begin this spring as initially planned.

“The bottom line is, we need more money... Although we can write a handsome check to get things started, you can’t stop paying in the middle of the job... I don’t think we’re going to have what we need to get the foundation work completed,” she said, explaining that the group would need another \$75,000 to get started this spring.

So far, the Lighthouse Preservation Society has an approximately \$120,000 in cash and in-kind contributions, short of the \$250,000 needed to receive a matching grant from the state for the \$470,000 project, which includes the foundation work, as well as upper structure concrete work, the cupola roof and windows.

Preconstruction exploration work began Friday, which will uncover the exact scope



Repairs to Huntington Lighthouse may have to wait until the fall, depending on the findings of a preconstruction exploration work crew, pictured Friday.

of needed repairs to the 101-year-old beacon’s foundation. Once the state signs off on the scope of work, the Lighthouse Preservation Society can put the job out to bid.

Setchell said that the lighthouse took a major beating during the winter of 2012-2013.

“When we came out after Sandy and came out in April and May and looked at the corners, we were stunned at the increase in erosion and damage to them,” she said.

The review will reveal exactly how extensive that

damage is, and possibly force the Lighthouse Preservation Society to reprioritize. Initially estimated at \$350,000, the foundation and rip rap work represents the lion’s share of the project. If that cost increases, portions of the upper-structure project may have to wait.

Most of the damage is in the north, northwest and southwest corners of the lighthouse, facing Norwalk, Conn., Lloyd Harbor and Huntington Harbor, respectively. The rip rap – 3- to 5-ton, pure granite boulders

encircling the foundation – also shifted significantly, giving the waves new openings to pound the foundation and erode it further.

But with a rough winter behind them, that might not be the only trouble area, and the Lighthouse Preservation Society can’t afford any surprises.

“We’ve got to really see how far this damage extends. This may entail the straight areas in between the corners. If that’s the case we need to have our ducks in a row,” Setchell said.