



Beacon Preservation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of lighthouses and their environments for educational, cultural, recreational, and historical preservation purposes. Its mission is to ensure that communities, civic organizations, and educational and research institutions are able to enjoy access to these important icons of nautical history. Beacon promotes the preservation of lighthouses and runs marine science programs for schoolchildren.

Beacon also founded Greenlight Academy, an educational venue for high school children interested in sustainable renewable energy and the environment and uses the light houses as educational classrooms.

Beacon Preservation first bought and preserved the Goose Rocks Lighthouse in North Haven Maine. Beacon won several bids from the Federal Government General Services Administration (GSA) Auction for the US Coast Guard in 2016 to acquire the Green Ledge Lighthouse in Norwalk, Connecticut, the Penfield Lighthouse in Bridgeport, and New Haven Harbor Southwest Ledge Lighthouses. Unfortunately, the State of Connecticut interfered and would not transfer what they believed was their subsea ground rights in Fairfield. The lighthouse continues in disrepair. Fortunately, efforts by Beacon Preservation and colleagues at Southern Connecticut State University, with Murphy International contributed funds secured the New Haven Harbor Lighthouse. Beacon Preservation Inc. submitted the high bid of \$180,002 for Southwest Ledge Lighthouse off New Haven, according the Ansonia-based nonprofit. Beacon promotes the preservation of lighthouses and runs marine science programs for schoolchildren.

The sales of Southwest Ledge — built in 1876 and dominated by a two-story mansard-style roof with Second-Empire-style details — and the two other lighthouses won't close until the bidders have negotiated leases with the submerged land under the lighthouses. The negotiations generally take six to 12 months.

The purchase of Southwest Ledge was financed with funds raised from the Werth Family Foundation, whose president, Peter J. Werth, founded ChemWerth, a pharmaceutical company; billionaire philanthropists Karen Pritzker and Michael Vlock of Branford, Murphy International, a renewable energy company, and others. Southwest Ledge welcomed its first students in fall 2017. Beacon estimates that restoration would run between \$50,000 to \$100,000, assuming that some materials and labor was donated.

Now more than five years ago, Beacon pursued a similar plan for Penfield Reef, but the deal fell apart because the state had not established procedures for leasing submerged lands under lighthouses. Legislation has since been passed. Penfield Reef was again up for auction this year, after \$1.2 million in repairs needed after storm Sandy caused heavy damage to the lighthouse. Penfield Reef was constructed in 1874 to resemble a two-story, Second-Empire-style house. Already in bad shape when Sandy struck the Connecticut coast, renovations to Penfield Reef included buttoning up major leaks, installation of a new roof, the addition of sturdy stainless steel doors and replacing brittle wood windows with architecturally accurate, hurricane resistant ones.

For more than a decade, the GSA has been seeking new owners for lighthouses. The beacons hold a prominent place in maritime history, warning seagoing vessels about dangerous reefs and shoals, but they are expensive to maintain and lack modern technology.

Goose Rocks Lighthouse, North Haven, ME



Southwest Ledge Lighthouse – New Haven CT



Green's Ledge Lighthouse, Norwalk CT

