



Town of Deer Isle, Maine

P.O. Box 627
Deer Isle, ME 04627
207-348-2324

Select Board

Ronald Eaton
Peter Perez
Percy Brown

June 24, 2024

Staff

James Fisher
Town Manager

Judy Dunham
Treasurer
Tax Collector

Heather Cormier
Town Clerk

Ed Billings
Environmental
Planner

Kenneth Eaton
Road Foreman

Brent Morey
Fire Chief

Chris Robbins
Transfer Station
Operator

Raelene Pert
Shellfish Warden

To Julia Zell,

The Town of Deer Isle Selectboard is happy to support the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund proposal by Island Heritage Trust for stabilizing the Lily Pond Dam, improving fish passage under Route 15 and creating a replacement supply of water for the fire department. This grant will be a great example of municipal action to adapt infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Lily Pond is a valuable asset to the Town of Deer Isle providing all-season recreational opportunities and an emergency water supply for our fire department. This grant will make Lily Pond more sustainable and will facilitate necessary improvements to the Lily Pond Dam.

This project may also serve as a model for coordinated planning and infrastructure development between Island Heritage Trust, MaineDOT and the Town of Deer Isle to pursue our multiple objectives. Please do not hesitate to contact the town if you need additional information or technical support for this initiative.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. Eaton

Peter P. Perez

Percy L. Brown, Jr.

Deer Isle Fire Department

PO Box 275, Deer Isle, Me 04627

207-348-6133

I am writing this letter in support of the Island Heritage Trust project to replace the old earthen dam at Lily Pond, help replace the rt 15 culvert, and upgrade the emergency fire water supply in Deer Isle, Maine.

Deer Isle Fire Department (DIFD) has a water reservoir at the lower end of the brook below the dam to supply fire suppression water to the town and surrounding buildings. It is a very antiquated way to get water, taking approximately 20 minutes for the water to get from the pond to the reservoir for bigger fires once the sluice way is opened. At this time, the sluice must remain open to keep hydraulic pressure off the dam, leaving the DIFD without the ability to refill during bigger fires. The water reservoir is in disrepair and needs to be replaced. DIFD was interested in replacing it in the existing location before becoming involved in the Island Heritage Trust project. We support moving our water supply to the new location.

The Lily Pond is a community gem with everyone using it to swim, picnic, fish, and hike the trails. I personally have done all of these in my lifetime.

Respectfully


Brent Morey Chief
Deer Isle Fire Dept.



207-367-2351 / www.stoningtonmaine.org

June 26, 2024

Re: Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

Application title: A Collaborative Project to Restore Connectivity, Improve Resilience, and Improve Community Infrastructure around Lily Pond, Deer Isle Maine

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Town of Stonington, Maine, we offer this Letter of Support for Island Heritage Trust's project to remove two barriers and to rehabilitate the Lily Pond Dam to increase public safety and community resilience along the vital Route 15 transportation corridor while restoring aquatic connectivity from the Lily Pond to the Mill Pond.

This project benefits our entire island community in multiple ways, and we are grateful for the opportunity to address these issues and to improve community infrastructure and resilience.

The Lily Pond is one of the island's most beloved recreational assets. Island residents and summer visitors alike flock there to enjoy swimming, fishing, walking, and ice skating through the year. Rehabilitating its ancient and deteriorating dam in order to install a nature-like fishway provides unparalleled community benefit on its own merits.

In addition to the dam, this project includes replacing the undersized culvert beneath the island's primary transportation corridor that connects this fish passageway to its outlet. Replacement of this culvert will not only improve fish passage but also support public safety and create needed resilience for State Route 15 in light of the more frequent and severe storms and flooding we experience due to climate change. This work also includes long overdue replacement of an aged firewater supply system which is currently one of the barriers to aquatic connectivity.

Our primary transportation corridor, State Route 15, is a vital economic lifeline for Stonington – Maine's #1 Lobster Port in value and amount of landings. Multiple truckloads of lobster, as well as granite quarried from Stonington's Crotch Island, transit this corridor daily getting our product to market and bringing labor to our harbor. It is part of our Economic Resiliency Strategy, adopted in June 2023, to maintain this infrastructure for safe, all-weather passage.

We look forward to MDOT's continued support of SR 15 and our island community.

Most sincerely,

Linda L. Nelson, Economic & Community Development Director, Town of Stonington

WILLIAM J WIEGMANN
9 North Wind Lane
Deer Isle, ME 04627

Maine DOT

Re: Proposal by Island Heritage Trust at Lily Pond, Deer Isle, Maine

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the application by Island Heritage Trust, Inc. for funding from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund for Route 15 Culvert Replacement at Eel Brook, Lily Pond Dam Reconstruction and Deer Isle Fire Department Fire Water Supply.

I have been a resident of the Town of Deer Isle for 17 years. After retiring from practicing law for almost 30 years, I have mostly been engaged in volunteer work on the Island: I volunteer as an EMT for our local ambulance service and serve as President of its Board of Trustees; I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Island Heritage Trust and Chair of its Land Committee; I am a member of the Planning Board of the Town of Deer Isle; and I recently chaired the Steering Committee for the Town's Comprehensive Plan adopted in March of this year. I have been closely involved in addressing the issues arising out of the potential failure of the Lily Pond Dam, the Route 15 culvert at Eel Brook and the Fire Department cistern and the proposed rehabilitation solutions. I write this letter of support in my individual capacity and not as a representative of the Town or any other organization.

The Lily Pond is an essential resource for the Island community, and Island Heritage Trust is proud to have played a key role in securing its benefits for future generations. Innumerable residents have told me how much they value the Pond: how they have fished or ice skated on it, learned to swim there, hiked its trails or just enjoyed taking their children to the Pond's beach area. There are no other comparable freshwater resources on the Island readily accessible to all. Rehabilitation of the Lily Pond Dam is essential to the continued use and enjoyment of the Pond by the public. Restoration of fish passage would be an ecological boon to not only the Lily Pond, but also Eel Brook, the Mill Pond and Northwest Harbor.

Route 15 is a lifeline for the Island economy. The daily catch from the largest lobster port in Maine reaches the world by this route. Alleviating the risk of the road's destruction from a Dam failure or other extreme weather event would benefit the entire Island and region.

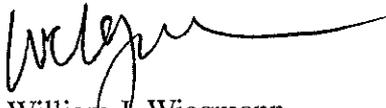
The Deer Isle Fire Department is a volunteer force that does an outstanding job protecting Islanders from fire risks and other public safety threats. The risk of fire may well increase if climate change leads to less rainfall or more lightning storms, for example. The Department's efforts to protect the public are hampered by the inadequacies of the current fire water cistern at

Route 15. A new fire water system drawing on the Lily Pond waters could save lives and property.

The Deer Isle Comprehensive Plan includes support for Island Heritage Trust's reconstruction of the Lily Pond Dam, upgrading the Fire Department's fire water system and review of the Lily Pond as a potential future drinking water source. The draft plan also identifies the Route 15 culvert and cistern as fish passage barriers and recommends that the Town explore grant funding for improvements.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in your consideration of the Island Heritage Trust's application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wiegmann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Wiegmann
(H) 207-348-2714
(C) 207-610-4007
williamwiegmann@msn.com

June 28, 2024
Maine DOT
Re: Proposal by Island Heritage Trust at Lily Pond, Deer Isle, Maine

To Whom it May Concern:

I write in support of Island Heritage Trust's pursuit of application for funding from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund for Route 15 Culvert Replacement at Eel Brook, Lily Pond Dam Reconstruction and Deer Isle Fire Department Fire Water Supply.

I have taught at Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School since 2011 and I am a fervent believer in embedding outdoor learning into the school culture. I have brought my students to the Lily Pond Park every school year since. I have also visited the park with the Nature Club from our After School Program. This park has given us opportunities to observe and record the phenology of the area as well as tree identification and issues involving invasive species. I am excited at what this project will provide for new learning opportunities on Deer Isle.

Island Heritage Trust seeks to rehabilitate the Lily Pond Dam and remove two complete barriers to fish passage within Lily Pond's watershed. With the success of this project, students will visit the pond to learn about the importance of aquatic connectivity and the widespread benefits of freeing a complete watershed. This project will resonate with these children as many recreate at the pond and picnic area with their families and friends throughout the year. Once this project is funded, school children will engage in educational programming and monitoring efforts. By allowing the children to be involved in this restoration project from the beginning, they will better understand the value and importance of the Targeted Species, the ecosystems they call home, and the ripple effects supporting a resilient community.

Studies at Stanford University demonstrated that environmental education has led to a number of positive impacts, from improving academic performance to enhancing critical thinking skills to developing personal growth and life-building skills including confidence, autonomy, and leadership. In addition, it was shown that environmental education increased civic engagement and positive environmental behaviors. (<https://naaee.org/programs/eeworks/benefits-k12-students>)

Please contact me (mflores@dises.org 207 460-6038) for details on past and current projects the students and I have undertaken. We would be pleased to add this project to our efforts.

Mickie Flores
Mickie Flores
Science Teacher



June 25, 2024

Maine DOT MIAF Grant Review Committee

Re: Proposal by Island Heritage Trust at Lily Pond, Deer Isle, Maine

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express the enthusiastic support of Downeast Trout Unlimited (DETU) for the application by Island Heritage Trust for funding from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund.

Downeast Trout Unlimited (DETU) is a local chapter of Trout Unlimited, a national conservation organization with over 400 chapters and state councils, whose mission is to protect, conserve, and restore native cold water fish species and their habitat. DETU partnered with Island Heritage Trust earlier this year to provide brook trout fishing, flytying demonstrations, and educational activities for area youth on Lily Pond during the second annual Family Fishing Day at Lily Pond. Maine has the largest remaining population of native Brook Trout in the United States as well as the largest number of sea-run brook trout in the country. Lily Pond has been known to support a Brook Trout population; DETU is extremely interested in providing connectivity to the ocean on coastal streams, thus increasing access to the ocean for Brook Trout. This project, in addition to improving coastal Brook Trout habitat, will increase the opportunity for educational and recreational activities for residents young and old in Downeast Maine while ensuring infrastructure safety and adaptability on Deer Isle.

Sincerely, *Robert Packie*

Robert Packie, President
Downeast Chapter, Trout Unlimited
rpackie@gmail.com
PO Box 117 Hulls Cove, ME 04644





LETTER OF SUPPORT

June 24, 2024

Maine DOT

re: Proposal by Island Heritage Trust at Lily Pond, Deer Isle, Maine

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Downeast Salmon Federation in support of Island Heritage Trust's (IHT's) application for funding from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund for Route 15 Culvert Replacement at Eel Brook, Lily Pond Dam Reconstruction, and Deer Isle Fire Department Fire Water Supply.

Lily Pond is a 37-acre freshwater pond situated in a 297-acre watershed. Most of its shoreline is currently undeveloped, but development pressures persist. It is regularly stocked by the Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife with Brown and Brook Trout and is highly valued by local anglers. Apart from presumed American eel migration, the current compromised infrastructure are a complete block to the other Target Species. This watershed is located within the USFWS Atlantic Salmon DPS and NOAA's Penobscot Watershed Habitat Focus Area (HFA).

There are strong ecological benefits to this project including alewife, sea-run rainbow smelt, sea-run brook trout, American eel, and forage fish population restoration and sustainability. Improvements to critical infrastructure will restore access to freshwater refuges and spawning habitats for target species populations. In addition to improving infrastructure resilience to the effects of sea level rise, the project will ultimately free a complete watershed to allow fish passage from Lily Pond through Northwest Harbor to Penobscot Bay.

The Downeast Salmon Federation's mission is to conserve wild Atlantic salmon, other sea-run fish and their habitats, restore a viable recreational salmon fishery, and protect other important river, scenic, recreational, and ecological resources in eastern Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dwayne Shaw', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dwayne Shaw

Executive Director



June 28, 2024

MDOT MIAF Grant Review Committee

Re: Proposal by Island Heritage Trust, Deer Isle, Maine

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter to express the support of Maine Coast Heritage Trust for the application to the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) by the Island Heritage Trust focused on taking vital initial steps towards stabilization and replacement of public safety and water infrastructure at the outlet of Lily Pond and downstream in the village center.

Led by the local land trust on this coastal island community, this project will rebuild the Lily Pond Dam and replace the Rt. 15 culvert downstream while providing the Deer Isle Fire Department with a new emergency water supply. It involves a multi-year, multi-step plan to restore the health and connectivity of the entire stream and pond system. Because the stream runs under a state route and through a village center, this project involves many community stakeholders and will provide community and economic benefits including improved transportation safety and infrastructure resilience; and improved fire safety infrastructure resilience and access for all of the residents of these coastal island towns. This project builds on years of proactive conservation work around Lily Pond -- not only important ecologically as one of the few freshwater ponds on this coastal island, but also a beloved community recreation destination for swimming and ice skating.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust has been involved since the early days of this project by providing staff time and technical advising to Island Heritage Trust, which we plan to continue. I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed or with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ciona S. Ulbrich". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ciona S. Ulbrich
Senior Project Manager

Bagaduce Watershed Association
72 Schooner Point Road
Penobscot, Maine 04476
Telephone: 207 326-8868, Cell: 207 610-2185
Email: Radiusmyfairpoint@outlook.com
Website: Bagaducewatershed.org

28 June 2024

Maine Department of Transportation
Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund
Attention: Grant Application Review Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you today in support of a grant proposal submitted to you by the Island Heritage Trust of Deer Isle Maine. Their application has merit in its intent, its contents and in the long history of IHT's excellent service to not only Deer Isle but the entire Blue Hill Peninsula.

The proposal calls for the repair of the dam at Lily Pond. The current condition of the dam poses a risk to the public should it fail. It is common knowledge held by town officials and the community at large that the dam must be made safe and for additional reasons as stated in their proposal.

Additionally, through ecologically sound and aesthetically positive construction on the downstream side is the proposed replacement of a culvert which will better enable effective management of water flow. The current culvert presents an obstacle to fish passage. Its replacement and the construction of a natural fishway will enhance the migration of various fish species. This fishway will join other fishways and culvert replacements on the peninsula which has resulted in one of our estuaries being the first fully restored body of water accommodating

naturally migrating and commercially valuable fish species. These projects also serve as valuable educational opportunities for local students and adults as well.

My personal experience in this regard has been as an “Alewife Counter” and supporter of the successes of the Bagaduce River Watershed. I am currently the Vice President and Acting President of the Bagaduce Watershed Association, a member of the Board of Directors of Friends of Blue Hill Bay, a Councilor for the Climate Action Net, and Consulting Member of the Blue Hill Peninsula Rockweed Forum. As such I understand the value and importance of assisting in funding such worthy projects as proposed by IHT.

IHT has consulted with the same engineering firm which designed the fishways at Pierce Pond and Wight’s Pond in Penobscot which in my view guarantees the success of their proposal. A very important component of this grant is the connectivity it will provide to the preparedness for fire suppression. IHT with the money you provide and partnering with the town will also construct an above ground pumping station and underground water storage for the D.I.F.D. At one point in my 49 years as a resident of Penobscot and a member of the fire department I fought a house and forest fire without an easily accessible water source. I wish that we had a pumping station and underground water storage back then. This, in my opinion, would convince your committee to look favorably on IHT’s proposal.

It is without hesitation and with complete confidence that I urge you to award IHT the money they request. It will be wisely spent and be an excellent investment in the community. Thank you for your good work.

Best,
Tom

Tom Adamo, 207-326-8868, cell 207-610-2185
V.P. and Acting President Bagaduce Watershed Association
Board Member, Friends of Blue Hill Bay
Councilor, Climate Action Net