

**To:** Bowdoinham Selectboard

**From:** Yvette Meunier, Director of Planning & Development

**Date:** December 23, 2025

**Subject:** Request for Permission to Apply for Maine Coastal Program Shore and Harbor Planning Grant

## **Background**

The Maine Coastal Program offers Shore and Harbor Planning Grants to support coastal communities in improving access, resilience, and planning for waterfront resources. We propose applying for up to \$50,000 under this program to conduct a comprehensive planning initiative focused on fishing and paddle put-in locations in Bowdoinham. Fishing spots were identified on the Master Site Plan for the new park, however those uses may be at odds with the shoreline stabilization project. We are looking to explore that and other locations with this grant.

## **Purpose of the Grant**

This planning grant would allow the Town to:

- Conduct needs assessments for public waterfront facilities, including fishing and low impact paddle put-ins.
- Document existing sites (formal and informal) used for fishing and paddle put-ins.
- Assess environmental hazards and risks affecting these locations over the long term.
- Design and create plans for improvements to make these sites more resilient and accessible.
- Develop cost estimates for proposed improvements.
- Identify legal hurdles, including lost or contested public rights-of-way to coastal waterways and permitting requirements for improvements.

We will seek collaboration with Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT) to integrate land conservation and public access planning into this effort.

## **Funding Details**

- Grant Request: Up to \$50,000
- Required Match: 10% (approximately \$5,000), which will be provided through the CMP TIF.
- Application Deadline: January 5, 2026

Program details can be found in the Maine Coastal Program

[www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/FY26\\_CCG\\_SHG\\_program\\_statement.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/FY26_CCG_SHG_program_statement.pdf)

## **Request for Action**

We seek Selectboard approval to:

1. Apply for up to \$50,000 from the Maine Coastal Program Shore and Harbor Planning Grant.
2. Commit the required 10% match (\$5,000) from CMP TIF funds.
3. Authorize staff to collaborate with KELT and other partners to strengthen the application and planning process.

## **Benefits to Bowdoinham**

- Improves public access to waterways for fishing and paddling.
- Enhances resilience of access points against environmental risks.
- Supports long-term planning for conservation and recreation.
- Positions Bowdoinham for future funding opportunities for implementation.

## **Next Steps:**

Upon approval, staff will prepare and submit the grant application by January 5, 2026, and report back to the Selectboard with updates.