

## MEMORANDUM

To: Bowdoinham Selectboard  
From: Community Development Advisory Committee  
Date: April 5, 2024  
Re: Recommendation for Project Canopy Grant Application

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### **Recommendation:**

CDAC unanimously recommends that the Town of Bowdoinham apply for a Project Canopy grant application to purchase and plant trees at the new waterfront park. We recommend a motion to allow the committee to apply for this grant. We recommend utilizing the Rideau Family Trust to fund as a match for this project which will not entail any outlay of town money to launch the project.

### **Background**

We have an opportunity to apply for a Project Canopy grant to fund a substantial portion of the trees and shrubs planned for at the new waterfront park. Project Canopy Goals include: increase the number of managing community forestry programs; stimulate and heighten public awareness of what the community forest is, its role and benefit; create and maintain partnerships; and promote comprehensive resource management of community forests and related natural resources. Further the USFS National goals include conserving open space, fostering resilient, adaptive ecosystems to mitigate climate change, connect people to the outdoors, strengthen communities, and provide abundant clean water among others.

Additional points are given to communities like ours which has not taken advantage of this program in the past and those that have a state approved comprehensive plan as we do.

We are requesting to apply for a grant award of \$15,000 and for approval of our local match of \$15,000 from the Rideau Family Trust, for a total project cost of \$30,000. For this phase of the waterfront redevelopment, we have received estimates from three companies for purchasing the trees and shrubs identified in our plans which come in as upwards of \$40,000. This substantial investment is also well timed as the project develops.

### **Grant Information**

The Project Canopy grant application is due May 15, 2024. This is a National Forest Service grant passed through the Maine Fforest Service. The maximum award is \$15,000 with a 50/50 match required. Work must be completed by June 30, 2025.

### **Proposed Scope**

June 2024: Receive award and contract with the State of Maine

December 2024: Review the schedule of earth work at the waterfront park with our general contractor and consultant to determine preliminary timeline of tree delivery and planting.

January 2025: Place order for the trees and their delivery.

March 2025: Reconfirm with general contractor about tree delivery and map out locations and timing of plantings. With the potential to stagger tree delivery and planting throughout the spring dependent on how the earthwork has progressed. Assemble a group of stakeholders to outline a strategy to plant the trees. Publicize volunteer planting opportunity.

April - June 2025: Trees delivered and are planted by staff, volunteers, and the general contractor.

July 2025: Request reimbursement from MFS.