



Tide trackers

On a cold day in early May, Islesboro took a huge step towards understanding the island's vulnerability to sea level rise. Through the generosity of UMaine Professor Lauren Ross, PhD, and her Research Technician Neill Fisher, two tide tracking devices were installed on the island.

Located on both the East and West sides, the trackers will allow the island to collect local data on our tides and provide the Town's Sea Level Rise Committee (SLRC) with insight into understanding our water levels. The trackers are VanEssen Conductivity, Temperature, Depth (CTD) sensors that will measure water levels, conductivity (salinity) and temperature every 20-30 minutes. The tracker on the West side of the island, located on the town dock near the ferry terminal, has been hooked up to Telemetry and will use cell towers to send its data to a password protected website once per day. The sensor on the East side of the island, located off a private residence on Hewes Point, will have its data collected manually.

Installing tide trackers on the island was one goal of the SLRC and will be a useful tool for creating community engagement around this complicated topic. On the day of the installation, Dr. Ross and Mr. Fisher were joined by ICS students eager to learn about the devices. Dr. Ross gave a presentation before getting the students involved in the hands-on installation process. While Mr. Fisher climbed the slippery pilings under the dock, the students made a train to feed him the tube that encases the connecting cables used to transmit the collected data. Eventually, the data collected will be used to implement a tide tracking and sea level rise curriculum, with a special emphasis on estuarine environments, into the ICS science program.

Dr. Ross has installed trackers at locations in the mouth of Penobscot Bay and into the Penobscot River estuary as part of her research. With devices located in Belfast, Searsport, and Vinalhaven, the data is drawing a comprehensive map of conductivity, temperature, and depth in Penobscot Bay. Gathering local water level data is important because, as we head towards a future in which higher tides are no longer a question, understanding how much change we are seeing locally will improve our resilience moving forward. Because of its scale, global sea level rise is occurring at unpredictable rates; with influence from the Greenland to the Antarctic icesheets to thermal expansion and the albedo affect, exactly how much Islesboro's tides will rise in the next century is uncertain. As the SLRC moves toward releasing an RFP to engineering firms for an adaptation project at the Narrows, the trackers will provide valuable local data.

For more information, please visit the Islesboro Sea Level Rise Committee's website or attend one of our monthly meetings, announced via Constant Contact.

Submitted by Liv Lenfesty, Island Fellow

IAP ... continued from page 1

We suggested that a \$300K loan didn't sound like much to be on the hook for. Rick disagreed, noting that IAP pays a corporate rate on the mortgage loan, so if the interest rate was 6%, the monthly payment would be \$1800+-. Add to that property taxes, insurance, and maintenance of the buildings; "It's a losing proposition, he explained. "It's affordable housing- you just can't charge a high enough rent to cover monthly expenses." The highest rent paid for an IAP home currently is \$675/mo. and the rents haven't gone up in years; a situation that is about to change, Rogers says, at least nominally, to address ever-increasing costs. Most affordable housing non-profits have to fund-raise even to meet operational costs. Rogers doesn't want IAP to get in the financial position of not being able to pay its bills.

To that end, he has written a grant request for \$100K to a strong supporter of the organization whose name will remain anonymous for the time being. If that comes through, the number would be down to \$200K, getting closer to making the project economically feasible.

Renewed fundraising is being undertaken by Mark Umbach who says, "I was advised that IAP doesn't have to have a cocktail party to raise awareness; everyone is acutely aware of the shortage of housing for the people who keep the place running- the workers, the emergency crews, the town employees. I am hoping we can find some donors who understand the dire need for these two new houses on the island, and will step up with contributions toward our goal of raising \$200,000."

Rogers cautions that nothing is guaranteed, noting that the day after he received the Notice to proceed he got an email from the construction manager at Maine-Housing requiring a continuous layer of insulation, not just between the studs, throughout the house. Rick queried if this was a requirement (there are many) or a recommendation and had yet to receive an answer. "It's things like that which will drive up those million dollars", says Rogers. "The money is great but it comes with strings."

But it's looking good. At the last IAP meeting the board voted to begin clearing the land. Once that's done Rogers will lay out the septic and well locations. Then an application has been submitted to the Planning Board. Assuming approval, IAP can then access the funding from MaineHousing. Who knows how long it will take to close on the loan but the money has to be in the bank to be able to start construction.

Perhaps, if all goes well, construction could start in the spring- three years since that initial online funding find.

What's on Your My Mind

Letters & Opinions

Dear reader,

So once again we are chock full so I will restrain myself!

I would like to say "thank you" to all who took the time to let me know when you would like to have your paper delivered to your 04848 address. It makes things so much easier! (the next issue mails out on 8/9.)

We have three new advertisers we'd like to welcome.

Bruce Babbidge is an island native and year 'round resident. He recently purchased a portion of Dave Pike's "Cleanwoods" portable toilet business. Cleverly renamed "Turtle Heads", Bruce continues to serve customers on the Island for events, construction sites and wherever there is a need for good clean relief!

Bruce is not the only entrepreneur in the Babbidge family. His daughter Betsy is offering pet sitting and care services this summer. Judging by the number of queries for such on Facebook this is a need, especially in summer, looking to be filled. Give her a call at (207) 242-2165.

Matt Hohman and his partner, who grew up in Camden, decided to move to Maine about 12 years ago. She worked at the Cellar Door Winery and he at several local restaurants and then at French and Brawn. He said he's always had his eye on The Beach Store in Lincolnville, and when his boss at F&B bought the building two years ago, he was able to lease the space and make a dream come true, opening in June of 2022. Matt says it's been a learning curve "to say the least" but he's looking forward to a busy summer season. Speaking from personal experience their sandwiches are delicious and don't cost an arm and a leg!!

We wish you all success and thank you all for advertising with the *Islesboro Island News!*

And dear reader, if you chance to patronize a business you see on these pages, please let them know you appreciate their support of your little island paper.

Have a lovely summer!

Maggy



TURTLE HEADS

Portable Restrooms
Island Based - Serving Islesboro

- Weddings / Events
- Commercial Business
- Public Spaces
- Job Sites •
Hunting Camps •
Campers •

Bruce Babbidge 207-446-5662 Fully Insured
Owner bkb51@icloud.com

Pet Sitting and Care

Betsy Babbidge
Cell: 207-242-2165



LINCOLNVILLE

BEACH STORE



Pizza, Subs, Beer, and Wine

Breakfast goods available
Monday through Friday at 7am

207-789-5555

www.lincolnvillbeachstore.com