


Follow up on town meeting of 5/26/2026

Thanks to all who turned out to represent the Town governing body. I encourage people to attend meetings. I also encourage relevant boards to publish agenda items in reasonable advance. However, published agendas are subject to modifications at the start of a meeting or topics may be raised in public comment. An interested group of likeminded Citizens may consider having a representative who regularly attends when a topic of interest is on the menu.

Bob Stackpole raised a couple of points that were technically not part of the official topic and as such were limited by the moderator. His basic question was “what are the future costs of the water access ramp?” The approach to future expenditures was discussed in the January 15th presentation, which he was unable to attend. The presentation has been published on the town website, excerpts are below.

<h3>The Plan</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquire the land<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nothing happens without this step• Clear the land<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demolish house, shed and most of the pier• Cut down trees• Put in a slipway• This may take two or more years before a functional access point is in place.	<h3>A flat lot with a simple ramp</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hardscape base with concrete slabs   <p><small>Images created courtesy of Bill About</small></p>
---	--





Concerns



- Costs
 - The project is designed to keep Town costs within the current contribution – at some future point adjusted for inflation.
 - Clear the lot and gavel the roadway portions. Reduce the maintenance to mowing and weed control.
 - Perform work with town and grant monies.
 - LMF Stewardship Grant - \$20,000 already applied for.
 - Working Waterfront Access Protection Program
 - Shore and Harbor Planning Grants
 - Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP)
- This is a **long term** project – not happening overnight

There is no intent to spend more than the authorized amount designated by the Warrant at the annual Town meeting, The current amount is our budget for the immediate future. Inflation will eventually get the better of us. The slogan here is “If we do not have the funds, then we wait until we do!” No expenditure may be made in excess of the annual Town warrant without a special Town meeting such as May 26th 2026. So, a cap is already in place.

Another topic raised was the new Harpswell landing. That town has allowed their project to balloon from some \$100,000+ to well over \$1M. This presumably is in reference to the new Mitchell Field landing which is scheduled to open on May 29th 2026. There is a considerable difference between our starter ramp and the Harpswell project.

	<p>CUSHING PROJECT</p> <p>Builders: Our skilled neighbors ~50'x12'</p> 
	<p>HARPSWELL PROJECT</p> <p>Builder: Wyman and Simpson ~500'x50'</p> 

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Our build will be accomplished through current appropriations, donations and grants, not by added taxes.

Finally, the whole concept of the warrant and subsequent vote was to ensure funds were available to ensure closing occurred on time regardless of delays beyond our control. The \$90,000 was determined as follows:

- \$75,000 for the shortfall from Land for Maine's Future
- \$15,000 for closing costs and fees

The shortfall from Land for Maine's Future is expected to be covered by:

- \$25,000 from MCHT – already awarded
- \$50,000 from MCF – due June 19th.

The costs and fees could be immediately taken from unused balances in existing town appropriations. However, it was deemed wise to seek authorization in case those existing appropriations were unexpectedly consumed as previously intended.