

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
WATERSHED PROTECTION FUND
2017 GRANT APPLICATION**

Eligible Projects: Grant funds can only be used for the protection or restoration of water bodies located in whole, or in part, within the Town of Windham. Preference will be shown toward non-profit organizations that are based in Windham. Preference will also be shown toward projects that will promote the sharing of equipment, knowledge, and other resources with other non-profit groups in the Town of Windham.

Application Deadline: The grant application deadline is February 10, 2017. All applications must be delivered to the Windham Town Manager's Office by that date. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified of incomplete applications within five days of their receipt at the Town Manager's Office.

Grant Award and Disbursement: The Windham Town Council will complete their review of the applications and select grant recipients by March 14, 2017. All applicants will be notified by mail of the Council's decision. Projects that have been awarded a grant will receive the funds by April 11, 2017. The Town reserves the right to grant all, or any part, of the total amount requested.

Deliverables: Grant recipients will be required to submit a Final Report upon completion of all project activities. The Final Report shall include an accounting of all income and expenses presented in the same format as the original budget spreadsheet, a list of accomplishments, digital photographs, and the name of the organization responsible for maintaining any equipment or infrastructure associated with the project.

Applicant Contact Information:

Applicant Name Collins Pond Improvement Association (CPIA)

Contact Person Rodger Patterson

Address 92 Emerson Dr

City Windham State ME Zip Code 04062

Phone 207-892-7308 Fax _____

E-mail rodgerpatt@aol.com

Qualifications and Experience:

In 500 words, or less, present a brief summary of applicant qualifications to carry out the project. Summarize relevant experience and financial, administrative, and technical qualifications of the organization. Summarize relevant experience of the person that will manage the project. (Attach more pages, if necessary.)

Our group of volunteers organized by CPIA has been working since 2007 to control an extensive infestation of invasive Hybrid Variable Leaf Milfoil in our small lake, Collins Pond.

Many of the volunteers have attended training sessions offered by VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program) in DASH operation and benthic barrier construction and placement. We have also spent time with our partners from Little Sebago Lake Association observing their DASH work and their benthic barrier placement and removal. All of our divers have Open Water Dive certification.

Additionally we have successfully obtained grants from the Maine DEP administered by Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton since 2007. These grants require documentation during and after each summer work period. DEP staff periodically visit our lake and view the infestation and work progress. The last visit was during the summer of 2016.

I am the contact person and manager of the effort and have worked with this group since the beginning of this project. I am also one of the certified divers. Additionally I was on the Board of Directors for many years and currently am the Treasurer of Collins Pond Improvement Association (CPIA). Collins Pond Improvement Association is currently in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation status. Collins Pond Improvement Association was incorporated in 1959 as a non-profit corporation.

Project Description:**Project Name** Collins Pond Milfoil Mitigation Project**Water Body Name** Collins Pond

In 500 words, or less, describe the proposed project (problem/solution). Attach maps and sketches, if appropriate.

An infestation of Hybrid Variable Leaf Milfoil was detected in Collins Pond in 2004. This was probably caused by plants washing into our lake from Little Sebago Lake and Mill Pond, both upstream in the watershed of Collins Pond. These plants have probably been in the lake for years prior to 2004 but over time have spread and become more obvious.

Starting in 2007 we began using benthic barriers which are large weighted tarps to cover and smother small areas of infestation. During the past six years we have used a DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) boat in addition to the benthic barriers. The DASH boat is a 24' long pontoon boat that was stripped down first. A 23HP pump/compressor was purchased and installed. A fiberglass trough was constructed and also installed. The DASH boat method uses a diver who breathes surface supplied air through a long hose called a hookah. The diver uproots the plant by its root ball and feeds it into the large opening of a suction hose. The pump/compressor on the DASH boat supplies the diver with air to breathe and also draws water through the large hose that the diver is holding. The plant is sucked up through the hose and into the fiberglass trough on the boat. There the water flows through one of four openings and falls in a mesh bag. As the bags become filled they are replaced with empty bags. Since 2010 we have removed over 56,000 gallons of milfoil plants. These plants are eventually moved to the Pearson's Town Farm at St. Joseph's College in Standish. There the plants are composted and used to support the organic farming projects there. This past summer, due to the drought conditions, the farm manager spread these damp plants directly on the rows of crops. This immediate addition of moisture benefited the crops and helped to hold more of the irrigated water in the ground.

The Maine State Legislature and the Governor approved an increase in the boat registration fee about three years ago. That additional money was directed entirely to support grants to help control invasive plant infestations. With the additional money we were awarded in 2014 and 2015 our group was able to hire a local private contractor, New England Milfoil from Brownfield, Maine. They used their own divers and equipment to remove milfoil on days that our volunteers were not working. With their help we removed as many gallons of plants over the past two years as we had removed during the previous four years of work by ourselves. It is our plan to employ them again this year.

As more infested lakes drew on this limited pool of money from the Maine DEP we saw a decrease in our awarded grant last year and also an increase in the required cash match which is drawing down our available funds. Hopefully the anticipated 501(c)(3) status will attract more donations from our members and other interested parties. The continued support by the Town of Windham is vital to making this project successful.

Project Benefits:

In 500 words, or less, describe the project benefits. Who and/or what will directly benefit from the project and how will it benefit the citizens of Windham? What are the consequences of not completing the project?

Starting in 2014 we expanded our milfoil mitigation efforts by hiring a professional contractor to add to the efforts of our volunteer crews. Our DASH boat components were purchased with grant money but the boat was designed and constructed by our own volunteers with help from the Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA). When periodic and unexpected maintenance on the boat has been needed, we have contracted with local businesses to get this done. We have also partnered with LSLA over these years to make group purchases of supplies. We continue to share our experiences and gained knowledge with other lake associations at the annual Maine Milfoil Summit held at the USM-LA campus. Lakes Environmental Association also hosts an annual meeting that we attend to discuss DASH boat efforts and to share other mitigation ideas. This is an effort that will continue for many years as it will take this long to try and get the infestation under control.

Left uncontrolled, milfoil infestations have been shown to reduce lakeside property values as the lake is degraded. Milfoil can cause reduction in native plant diversity, reduce dissolved oxygen levels which can lead to reduced numbers of fish and encourage the growth of algae. The plants also can grow to the surface of the lake where the dense mats interfere with swimming and boating activities.

Little Sebago Lake Association's efforts to control their milfoil infestation will benefit our lake by reducing the chance of the plants washing downstream to re-infest our lake. By controlling our infestation we reduce the chance of plants washing downstream from Collins Pond into Ditch Brook, Pleasant River and Presumpscot River.

Project Schedule and Cost:Planned Duration: Start Date: 6/1/2017 End Date: 9/30/2017Total Cost of the Project \$ 15120.00Amount Requested from the Windham Watershed Protection Fund \$ 3000.00Matching Funds: Cash: \$ 12120.00 Services: \$ 5122.70

(Services amount is the value of our volunteer match. This value is calculated based upon amounts allowed in the Maine DEP grant application.)

Who will provide the matching funds/services?

We have applied for a grant from the Maine DEP Plant Control program. We have obtained a grant each year since 2006 through this program. Additional funds from our member donations will be used as a cash match. The value of our volunteer match, as calculated from our Maine DEP grant request has an estimate value of: \$5122.70

Will there be any other sources of funding?

Once a decision is made on our 501(c)(3) status, we will start a new fundraising drive. These donations would qualify as a tax deductible donation to our efforts.

Please attach a project budget spreadsheet including all income and expenses including material, equipment, labor, and indirect costs (e.g., insurance).

DASH Expenses for 2017		Income 2017	
Item	Amount		
Marine Liability Insurance	\$2,350.00	Maine DEP Grant & CPIA cash match	\$12,120.00
Dump Trailer Rental	\$670.00		
New England Milfoil-private contractor from Brownfield, Maine- 80 hours/three men/two boats	\$10,600.00	Town of Windham-Watershed Protection Grant	\$3,000.00
DASH boat expenses including gas, oil, onion bags, dive supplies, boat/trailer registration, motor maintenance	\$1,500.00		
Total Expenses	\$15,120.00	Total Income	\$15,120.00

Sustainability:

In 500 words, or less, describe how the project will be funded in future years, if applicable. What are the anticipated annual costs? Have sources of funding been set aside for maintaining/continuing the project?

Collins Pond Improvement Association is a voluntary organization whose purpose is to maintain and improve the water quality of this lake and its watershed. Members' donations are used in our milfoil mitigation efforts, maintenance of the small dam and any project that helps to improve the lake's water quality. As with the many other Maine lakes and rivers fighting this invasive plant infestation, we expect this effort to continue for years and probably never reach an ending. Research may find a better solution in the future, but currently these techniques are the best available to control these infestations. Grant funding will always be a primary source of funding to support this effort. We expect the D.E.P. Plant Control grant program to continue to provide the bulk of our working funds, supplemented by our own contributions and hopefully future grants from the Town of Windham. The expected annual cost will be at the current level for the foreseeable future until the degree of infestation is reduced. At that point a much smaller effort will be required to keep it in check.

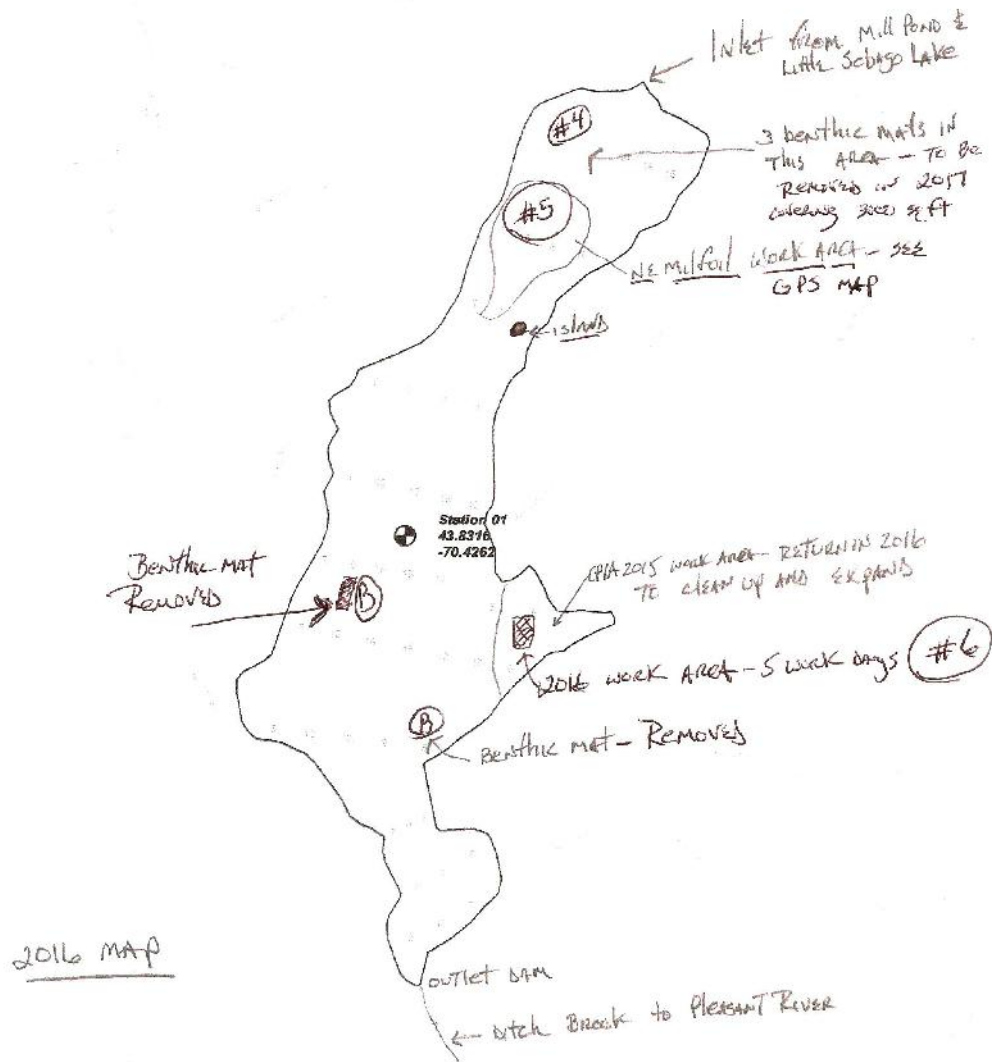
Resource Sharing:

In 500 words, or less, describe if equipment, knowledge, or other resources that would be acquired in association with this project can be shared with other non-profit groups in Windham. Will there be partnerships formed as a result of this project? List all the groups that could potentially benefit from this project.

We continue to attend the Maine Milfoil Summit held annually at U. Maine Lewiston/Auburn campus. This brings together all of the organizations in the state working on invasive species issues. An alphabet of organization names attend and present the results of their efforts. Other lake associations from Windham attend this summit, also. We continue to work with Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton and also partner with Little Sebago Lake Association in group purchases of supplies.

Another beneficiary is the Pearson Town Farm at St. Joseph's College in Standish. We deliver our milfoil to the farm where it is composted and used on their farm fields. They are looking into increasing their utilization of milfoil from other lakes in the area.

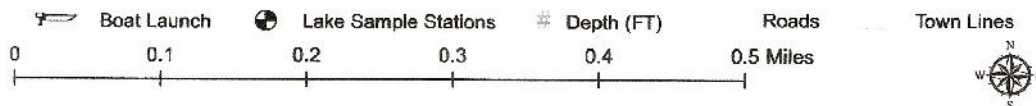
Collins Pond Map showing the work areas.



Collins Pond

MIDAS # 3728

Windham, Cumberland Co. - Delorme Page 5 - 43 acres



New England Milfoil-areas worked in 2016. In 2017 they will continue to work the areas outside of the shaded places after surveying and removing any regrowth in last year's area. If they complete working in this area they will proceed southward.

