TOWN OF WINDHAM
WATERSHED PROTECTION FUND
2019 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 18, 2019. 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 12, 2019. All applicants will be notified of the Council's decision. Payment for organizations awarded a grant will be processed with the warrant of April 17, 2019. 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 Drive

City Windham State Maine Zip Code 04062

Phone 207-892-7308 Fax none

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 Lake Stewards of Maine (formerly 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.

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 a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Collins Pond Improvement Association was incorporated in 1959 as a non-profit corporation.

Project Description:

Project Name_____ **INVASIVE MILFOIL -GET RID OF IT CAMPAIGN**_____

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 may have been in the lake for many years prior to 2004 but over time have spread and become more obvious. Collins Pond is about 45 acres in size with about half of this area infested with the invasive plant.

Starting in 2007 we began using benthic barriers (weighted tarps) to cover and smother small areas of infestation. During the past nine years we have used a DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) boat in addition to the benthic barriers. The DASH boat is a stripped down, 24' long pontoon boat with a 23HP pump/compressor installed. A fiberglass trough was also installed. The DASH boat method uses a diver who breathes surface supplied air through a long hose called a hookah. The diver essentially weeds the lake, uprooting the milfoil plant by its large root ball and feeding it into the 4" 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 with milfoil plants, they are replaced with empty bags. Since 2010 we have removed over 84,000 gallons of milfoil plants. The plants are composted after removal.

The Maine State Legislature and the Governor approved an increase in the boat registration fee a few years ago to support grants to help control invasive plant infestations. With this additional grant money we have been awarded over the past five years, our group has been able to hire a local private contractor, New England Milfoil from Brownfield, Maine. They use their own divers and equipment to remove milfoil on days that our volunteers are not working. With their help we have been able to remove many more gallons of plants annually than we were doing with our own volunteers. We are budgeting to use New England Milfoil for six weeks of work this year, dependent on funding. This may double the volume of plants removed as in previous years.

As more lake infestations are detected, more lake associations are drawing on these limited grant funds from the Maine DEP. Also we are required to provide a 20% minimum cash match where previously the value of our volunteer labor was counted towards this requirement. Two years ago our lake association obtained 501(c)3 non-profit, tax exempt status from the IRS. This helps us to attract tax deductible 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 knowledge gained with other lake associations at the annual Maine Milfoil Summit held at the USM-L/A campus. Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton also hosts an annual meeting that we attend to discuss DASH boat efforts and to share ideas. This is an effort that will continue for as many years as it takes to 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 have benefited our lake by reducing the amount of 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: 6/1/2019 End Date: 9/30/2019

Total Cost of the Project $ 39527.60

Amount Requested from the Windham Watershed Protection Fund $ 4000

Matching Funds: Cash: $ 35527.60 Services: $ 2888

Who will provide the matching funds/services?

The Services amount is the value of our volunteer match calculated in the Maine DEP grant application. Collins Pond Improvement Association volunteers include 4 Open Water certified divers and 13 other volunteers to provide surface support. Surface support describes the boat captains and tenders who run the DASH boat and kayakers to monitor the diver and gather floating plants. Additionally there are volunteers to move the plants to a composting location.

We have applied for a grant from the Maine DEP Plant Control program. We have obtained a grant each year since 2007 through this program. Additional funds from member donations will be used as a cash match.

Will there be any other sources of funding?

We created a web site in 2017 to help communicate with our members and to support our fundraising drive. Our 501(c)3 status helped us to attract over $4100 in donations during the past two years. We continue to research and apply for other available grants that can support our efforts.

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

See Spreadsheet Below:

Milfoil Project Budget		2019			Source of Income	Amount
(proposed)						
Boat & Trailer Registration		107.60			Windham Watershed Protection Grant	$4,000.00
D&O and Marine Liability Insurance		2540.00			Maine DEP Plant Control Grant	$31622.08
Dump Trailer Rental		1950.00			Cash Match-Collins Pond Improvement Association	$3905.52
New England Milfoil		33600.00			**Total**	**$36,173.00**
DASH expenses-gas, oil, parts, office supplies, air tank refills & testing		270.00				
Dive gear replacements, maintenance		100.00				
Pump/Motor repair		400.00				
Winterize motor		110.00				
Ropes/bungees/floats		250.00				
Onion Bags		200.00				
Total Expenses		**39527.60**				
Budget includes 6 weeks work by New England Milfoil						

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 mission includes maintaining and improving the water quality of Collins Pond 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 water quality. As with the many other Maine groups fighting invasive plant infestations, we expect this effort to continue for years. Research may find a better solution in the future but our current 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 Maine DEP Plant Control grant program to continue to provide the bulk of our working funds, supplemented by our own contributions and 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 the University of Maine Lewiston/Auburn campus. This meeting brings together all of the organizations in the state working on invasive aquatic plants. Other lake associations from Windham attend this summit. We continue to work with Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton and also partner with Little Sebago Lake Association in group purchases of supplies.

St. Joseph's College in Standish closed down their Pearson Town Farm last year. The farm was our partner for composting the milfoil. Since Windham does not run its own composting facility, last year most of our plants were delivered to a facility in a nearby town. This year we look to compost the plants there again and also with a private property owner.

Evergreen Federal Credit Union held a Jet Ski raffle last summer to benefit the local lake associations, food pantries and Portland Trails. We helped to promote the raffle and were awarded a grant to aid in our milfoil battle.

Collins Pond

MIDAS # 3728

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

Boat Launch Lake Sample Stations # Depth (FT) Roads Town Lines

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles