



To Whom it may concern,

3/6/2024

On behalf of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust in Kennebunkport, Maine, please hear our plea. We (Scott and Karen Dombrowski) have been the caretakers of Goat Island Lightstation for the past 30 years. We have seen many storms and surges over the years that have threatened the integrity of the island-none which has threatened the island and its structures more than the January 13, 2024 storm and tidal surge.

Goat Island is an approximately 3 ½ acres island that is situated ¼ mile out at the inlet of Cape Porpoise harbor in Kennebunkport. The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust (KCT) acquired the island and its structures through the Maine Lights Program in 1998 after a 5-year lease from the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard still maintains the LED light and the fog signal. With the work of many volunteers the island and structures were fixed up and opened up for the public to visit and enjoy. KCT has maintained a presence at the Lightstation to educate and make sure our visitors are safe, as well as maintain the buildings, the grounds, and a safe landing area for boats and kayaks. The Lightstation has been an integral part of the history of Kennebunkport and is well loved by the people that live here and beyond. We meet and greet close to 2000 visitors each year, who enjoy going up in the lighthouse, hike the rocky shore around the island and picnic. We also reach out to the schools and community with education, and we host local and out of state Boy Scout Troops who camp on the island and help with maintenance and projects a couple times each year.

That brings us to what we have witnessed over the last 30 years of our tenure as caretakers of Goat Island Lightstation. The tides have definitely gotten higher and we've seen that they are affecting the island in a different way than they did years ago. For instance, when a "washover" happens it used to hit the ocean side of the island but in recent years astronomical surges tend to hit the back of the island and wrap around the island and cause a washover from the harbor side. This is causing the island to want to be cut in half. We are in need of mitigation to stop this from happening. The January surge mentioned above caused a lot of damage, the worst of which was it lifted our boathouse and moved it 3 feet-the boathouse had been in place since 1901 undamaged. We will be spending the summer removing rocks from the lawn and replacing shingles and clapboards on every building. The reclaiming of the boat house is going to be very costly as it is more than volunteers can do.

This is just one of many lighthouses that have been severely damaged. We feel it is essential that the Maine Stabilization Fund set money aside to help with these historical landmarks. It is unthinkable that our children and their children might not be able to enjoy and learn from these pieces of the state of Maine's history.

Thank you for your time,

Scott and Karen Dombrowski
Caretakers, Goat Island Lightstation
Kennebunkport Conservation Trust