

History of The Island

The following information from the town records explains how The Island on Curtis Pond came to be owned by the Town of Calais. These are abbreviated notes from selectboard minutes. If you'd like a copy of the deed and/or the selectboard minutes, please let me know. (Members of the selectboard at the time were Cy Lambertson, Donald Singleton, Sr., Donna Fitch, Peter Backman, Randall Fitch).

June 30, 1997 – The Conservation Commission, represented by Harris Roen, approached the town for funding for the Island at Curtis Pond, now owned by William Manly. It is appraised for \$39,500 by the town, but is being offered at \$27,000. Some objections were raised as to the town being the potential owner and it was thought that perhaps the Community Club could take title and be responsible for maintenance, etc. The selectboard agreed to allocate \$5,000 from the Conservation Fund contingent upon the Community Club raising the balance of the purchase price and that the Community Club or some other suitable nonprofit organization take title.

July 28, 1997 – Erig Oberg reported that the Community Club would prefer not to own the Island but would be willing to form a committee to oversee it so that the selectboard and town clerk would not have to be responsible for it.

December 29, 1997 – The Community Club has raised the required funds, so the town will be following through with its commitment to fund \$5,000 from the Conservation Fund. Considerable discussion centered around who would actually hold title, and it was decided that the town would be the appropriate entity. The board will ask the Community Club for a list of 3 people, from which they can appoint an official committee to oversee the property, including handling complaints.

February 23, 1998 – After discussion with attorney Gloria Rice, the board adopted the following resolution: “The Board of Selectmen has approved the use of \$5,000 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of The Island at Curtis Pond from William Manly. The balance of the \$27,000 purchase price was raised and contributed by the Maple Corner Community Club. The purchase was completed and title to the Island was conveyed to the Town of Calais on January 2, 1998. Many local residents have enjoyed this property as a picnic and camping spot, and the goal of this purchase is to keep the Island available for use by future generations. A committee made up of townspeople and members of the Community Club will be appointed by the selectmen to oversee usage and maintenance of the property, so that it can be suitably preserved for the benefit of Calais residents.” A committee was appointed, consisting of Nick Emlen, Steve Gallagher, Eric Oberg, and Davis Cherington.

Donna Fitch
Previous Calais Town Clerk/Treasurer