

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

September 3, 2020 – I recently learned that nearly 250 people who work on Deer Isle commute here from as far away as Bangor. That’s about a 90-minute commute. This is largely because there is a lack of affordable housing here. The consequences of this situation make it hard for business of all types to attract and retain workers. It also results in fewer residents using and supporting the critical services like schools, ambulance, and fire departments. The local situation is worse than other parts of Hancock County with 43% of renters paying more than they can afford, and 72% of the island residents who cannot afford the average home price if they wanted to purchase a home.

Island Workforce Housing intends to reverse these trends by creating new, energy efficient, high quality, and durable rental housing that is desirable and affordable to workers here on the island. Island Workforce Housing is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring a vibrant year-round economy in Deer Isle and Stonington by creating permanently-affordable housing solutions for individuals and families working in our community. They are currently raising funds to purchase land and eventually build 30 housing units. The plan is to build 10 units at a time. The site for Phase One is centrally located on the Sunset Cross Road in Deer Isle and features 2,500 feet of frontage on Oliver's Pond, one of the island's most important fresh water ponds and wetlands. Island Heritage Trust is partnering on the land acquisition, and will provide stewardship for the shorefront and develop and manage trails to enable public access to Oliver's Pond.

As a local non-profit business ourselves, we at MCCF understand how critical this need is for the community and we encourage you to support this effort if you can. For Phase One to proceed, the Capital Campaign must raise approximately \$1,075,000 from charitable sources, including foundations, individuals, and families. To learn more, visit their website at www.islandworkforcehousing.org.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedders): \$2.85/lb.

Bait (fresh pogies): \$80/crt.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.10/gal.