

## Blue Hill Harbor Channel History

- 1891 - The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) conducts a hydrograph survey of Blue Hill Harbor and concludes the harbor is not worthy of improvement due to ledge rock.
- 1911 - The Corps conducts a preliminary examination of Blue Hill inner harbor and concludes the harbor is not worthy of improvement.
- 1946 - The Corps conducts a preliminary examination of a channel to the Municipal Wharf and concludes that improvements are warranted pending a study of cost and local cooperation.
- 1948 – The Corps conducts a hydrograph survey.
- 1951 – A Corps survey report concludes that providing a navigable channel is not economically justified.
- 1969 – A Corps reconnaissance report recommended further study of the feasibility of establishing a channel in Blue Hill Harbor.
- 1972 – The Corps issued a Survey Report recommending a 2,600-foot long and 6-foot dredged channel and turning basin to the Municipal Wharf. The Town of Blue Hill declined to provide the necessary local cost-sharing.
- 2009 - The Town of Blue Hill requests the Corps to initiate the steps for dredging an all-tide channel to the Municipal Wharf.
- 2012 – The Corps conducts a site inspection and hydrograph survey.
- 2012 – The Town of Blue Hill rehabilitates the Municipal Wharf.
- 2013 – The Town of Blue Hill informs the Corps that the Town voted to support 50% of the Corps' \$160,00 feasibility study. The Town will provide \$80,000.
- 2013 – The Corps performs an Initial Appraisal Report.
- 2015 – The Town of Blue Hill signs the Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Corps. The Town states that its funds are limited to \$80,000 and any cost increase would require additional authority from the Town Meeting before the Selectmen.
- 2015 – The Corps performs sediment testing along the channel route and discovers sediment contamination near the Municipal Wharf.
- 2016 – The Corps performs additional sediment testing to define the extent of the sediment contamination. The Town provides in-kind support services. The Town contribution is up to \$89,000.
- 2018 – The Corps addresses a Blue Hill public meeting about the contaminated sediment discovery and associated higher costs for the Town.
- 2018 – The Corps requests Blue Hill to provide an additional \$15,000 for sampling and testing of the contaminated sediment and design of a confined aquatic disposal cell in Blue Hill Harbor. The Town contribution is up to \$104,000.
- 2019 - The Corps addresses a Blue Hill public meeting about the contaminated sediment study and draft status of its final report. The Corps needs additional Town funding to complete the report and release it to the public.
- 2019 – The Corps requests Blue Hill to provide an additional \$20,000 for completion of required public and agency technical reviews of the project report. The Town contribution is up to \$124,000.

- 2020 – The Corps addresses a Blue Hill public meeting about the contaminated sediment study and draft status of its final report. The Corps needs an additional \$40,000 from Blue Hill for completion of the draft project report.
- 2020 – The Corps releases a February 2020 draft Environmental Assessment to federal and state agencies for review and comment.
- 2021 – State DMR issues a Notice of Public Comment.
- 2021 – State DMR approves the Corps' Blue Hill dredging plan.
- 2021 – Blue Hill reviews the Corps 2020 reports, notifies the Corps that the Town supports the plan and is willing to provide the cost-sharing funds, pending approval of the annual budget at the Town's annual meeting.
- Corps cost analysis estimated the total cost of the studies and dredging to be \$3,430,000. The 80%/20% federal/Blue Hill cost split will require \$686,000 from Blue Hill. \$343,000 will be required up front and the remaining \$343,000 upon project completion from Blue Hill, which can be paid over 30 years.