

Order of the Bar Harbor Town Council

NUMBER: 2026-01-03

TITLE: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF MAINE DOT SMALL HARBOR  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN  
OF A HEAVY-DUTY, ADA-COMPLIANT GANGWAY

DISPOSITION: PASSED

Filed January 5, 2026

Passed January 20, 2026

**WHEREAS**, the Maine Department of Transportation manages a Small Harbor Improvement grant program to promote economic development and public access and create and preserve infrastructure facilities in tidewater and coastal municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2025, with Council Order 2025-01-06, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to enter into tentative agreements with American Cruise Lines for disembarkation of passengers at the Town Pier and to plan and execute all necessary physical improvements to the Town Pier including upgrades to the gangway as part of the agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harbormaster applied for and was awarded a \$30,000 Small Harbor Improvement Program grant for construction and design of a heavy-duty ADA-compliant gangway; and

**WHEREAS**, per the town's Docking Use Agreement with American Cruise Lines dated April 4, 2025, American Cruise Lines committed a one-time, lump-sum payment to the Town of \$30,000 for the Town's use in enhancing the gangway serving the Town Pier Float; this payment comprises the entire required local share of the \$60,000 grant-funded project;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, that the Bar Harbor Town Council hereby authorizes the acceptance of the State of Maine Department of Transportation Small Harbor Improvement Program grant for construction and design of a heavy-duty, ADA-compliant gangway; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Town Council also accepts the matching contribution from American Cruise Lines, in the amount of \$30,000, and authorizes the use of \$60,000 from account 2153-6254 (Gangways) for this purpose.

Statement of Fact: Authorizes acceptance of a state grant for upgrading the gangway to the Town Pier Float.