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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Island Nursing Home Receives Approval to Move Forward

Conditional state license granted to allow Island Nursing Home to Operate

DEER ISLE, ME – The Maine Department of Health and Human Services has issued a conditional license to the Island Nursing Home to operate a residential care facility in Deer Isle. The license was received on February 14, which was the 40th anniversary of the original opening of the facility on February 14, 1983.

As anticipated, the license was issued with a number of requirements which will have to be satisfied before the facility can start accepting residents. They include:

1. "The Licensee will ensure that a Licensed Administrator will be hired. The Licensee will submit the Administrator license and the required administrator section of the application including references. The Administrator must pass a background check prior to admission of residents.
2. The facility will be inspected by the Fire Marshal's office and must pass the Life Safety Code Inspection prior to admission of residents.
3. The Licensee will submit an acceptable water test prior to admission of residents.
4. The Licensee will ensure staffing ratios are adequate to meet the needs of the residents.
5. The Licensee will ensure an RN or RN consultant has been hired prior to admission of residents.
6. The Licensee will notify the Division of Licensing and Certification with the above information prior to admission of residents.
7. The number of eligible Mainecare beds will be determined by the Healthcare Compliance and operations review of the proforma and pay for beds will be based on this approval."

"The conditional license will be dated 1/11/2023 and expire 1/11/2024. Once the terms of the conditions have been met a full two-year license will be issued from 1/11/2023."

A copy of the letter from the Department of Health and Human Services has been posted on the Island Nursing Home website at www.islandnursinghome.org. There is also a copy of the audited financial statement from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 on the same website.

While the issuing of a conditional license by the State is a long-awaited and significant step forward, there is still another major goal to be achieved before the INH Board will make the decision to reopen.

“The original plan suggested that our goal would be to reopen on July 1, 2023,” Island Nursing Home President Leon Weed said. “The board of directors has unanimously voted not to reopen the facility until the sum of approximately \$1.5 million has been raised and in hand which would be used to offset 3 years of anticipated losses.” The board feels that it would be irresponsible to reopen, not have sufficient resources, and be forced to close once again.

This decision will be revisited if the Maine Legislature decides to increase the reimbursement rate made to nursing homes under the Mainecare program. Skip Greenlaw, INH Treasurer, is scheduled to make a presentation to the legislative Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, requesting that the Legislature increase the reimbursement rate. A copy of Skip’s testimony will also appear on the Island Nursing Home website once delivered.

Greenlaw reported that 277 individuals have contributed \$79,380 to date and that there are pledges of \$390,000. The board has not spent any of these funds and will not expend any of these funds until they make the decision to reopen the facility. The reopening will depend on whether residents as well as seasonal residents of the communities, and municipalities are willing to step forward and make sufficient contributions to ensure the financial stability of the nursing home. If people wish to make a contribution or pledge, they can send it by mail to Island Nursing Home, 587 North Deer Isle Road, Deer Isle, ME 04627.

The board has formed a Buildings and Grounds Committee, made up of board members and members of the public. The immediate job of this committee will be to make a list of current maintenance and improvement requirements which will be necessary to complete before the facility is reopened.

If any member of the public would like to serve on the INH Development Committee to help raise funds, please contact Skip Greenlaw, 207-460-1260 or skipg@midmaine.com.

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