

For Immediate Release

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Beacon Institute Announces Major Grant for Construction of Research Pier in City of Beacon

Pier to Bring Important Waterfront Revitalization, Promote New Scientific Discoveries



The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries announced a major step forward in the revitalization of the City of Beacon's waterfront and the Institute's work to develop a world-class research center dedicated to interdisciplinary research, policy-making and education on rivers, estuaries and their connection with society.

The City of Beacon received a \$625,427 grant from the State of New York for the first phase of construction of the Beacon Institute's research pier. The City of Beacon, in partnership with the Beacon Institute, will construct Phase I of a home-port berth to accommodate research vessels and other public uses in Beacon Harbor. Planning and design of the harbor and the Institute's pier will be guided by the City's Harbor Management Plan, developed with input from local residents, community groups and businesses.

The Beacon Institute will match the grant, bringing additional resources to the City of Beacon from private sources to fund Phase I construction.

John Cronin, the Institute's Executive Director, said, "We thank the City of Beacon and the Department of State for their tremendous support. Redevelopment of the Beacon waterfront – bringing it back as a working waterfront for this community – will be a critical resource to the Institute and its efforts to build and conduct new scientific technologies and research."

The grant was awarded yesterday by Secretary of State Christopher Jacobs and was one of three New York State Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grants for the City of Beacon, totaling \$1,644,227.

The new research pier will accommodate research vessels owned by The Beacon Institute as well as those of its collaborative partners including Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Stony Brook University and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

Accommodations for enhanced public use of The Beacon Institute's pier, such as for smaller boats like dinghies, rowing and sailing boats, and transient dockage for recreational boats, are also being considered through the Harbor Management Plan.

To date, The Beacon Institute has benefited from over \$1.2 million in coastal funding, which the Institute is using to fund projects including the design and construction of the research pier, the high-tech outfitting of Building One on Denning's Point and to be a participant in a major transportation study.

The Beacon Institute, which is constructing its main campus one mile south of the pier at Denning's Point, is being considered an anchor for revitalization of the City of Beacon's waterfront. Its inaugural facility on Denning's Point is currently under construction and will feature public lectures, interpretive education, a learning laboratory for area teachers, and serve as a park visitor's center.

The Beacon Institute will outfit the building with high-tech displays and video conference and presentation capacity. These cutting edge technologies will heighten each visitors experience and provide a great resource for the Hudson Valley for gatherings, public lectures, and educational panels. The Beacon Institute's "Mastering The Hudson" program, which will kick-off after the construction of Building One, will be able to use these high-tech displays to guide students, teachers and visitors through the complexities of the Hudson River watershed from its geography to its history.

Cronin said, "The research pier will be vital to our scientists and researchers, enabling them to study the environmental conditions, chemical composition and marine life of the Hudson River in real-time. This unprecedented knowledge is key to maintaining the integrity of the Hudson River and its surrounding communities. We are proud to work in partnership with the State of New York and the City of Beacon to ensure important waterfront revitalization and community development."

About the Beacon Institute

Headquartered on the Hudson River in the City of Beacon, in Dutchess County, New York, the Beacon Institute's mission is to create a global center for interdisciplinary research, policy-making and education regarding rivers, estuaries and their connection with society. The Beacon Institute is committed to developing a cadre of scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts whose collaborative work will focus on some of the most important and endangered bodies of water in the world. It also aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for the development of advanced monitoring and observation technologies for rivers and estuaries.

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