

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Saturday, May 3 in Stonington:

A Jane's Walk Conversation Through History & Possibility

STONINGTON, ME, APRIL 17, 2025 – On **Saturday, May 3rd from 11:30 am to 1 pm**, for the fourth consecutive year Stonington will join nearly 50 other Maine communities and many more worldwide in hosting free, volunteer-led walking conversations as part of Jane's Walk. Each year the walk emphasizes the power of individuals to influence the places they live and the participatory planning approaches that are proven to support community members in connecting, supporting each other, and improving a sense of shared identity. "Stonecutters, Rooming Houses, and a Shoreful of Businesses in Stonington" will take walkers on a community-led exploration of Stonington's east side, including the former steamship wharves and lobster docks that placed Stonington at the center of island commerce; its housing density, much of it built as rooming houses for stonecutters; and more of the estimated 42 businesses along the harbor, including Duryea's Lobster Transport, Epstein's Department Store and Bartlett's Market, that once served Stonington's thriving downtown.

The 90-minute guided walk will start at 11:30 a.m. between Fin and Fern Restaurant and the Isle au Haut Boat Company ticket office at 37 Seabreeze Avenue and the intersection of Bayview Street in Stonington. Walkers will discuss the businesses along Bayview then proceed up Seabreeze to Main Street and spend considerable time in what was the former "Central Square" commercial district at the intersection of Main and Atlantic in front of the what was Epstein's Department Store (now Stonington Food Company) and the current 44North Coffee Shop. Walkers will complete their walk at a 44North Coffee pop-up at the Granite Museum at 51 Main Street after making multiple stops along the route in front of vanished and/or current store fronts, hearing the memories and stories of community members while gaining an understanding of what Stonington has retained and has made the Town historically so resilient; and learning about strategies to increase the Town's resilience in the face of current challenges. Are there ways we can understand our history and current external impacts to go "back to the future" and create positive change that benefits our year-round community?

Participants' stories, questions, images and concerns are welcome as the walk addresses these intersections of past and the possible in Stonington's modern fishing village.

Additional walks around the state can be found at www.janeswalkme.org. For more information email econdev@stoningtonmaine.org, or call 207-367-2351. More information on the statewide walks and program is available at <https://www.maine Preservation.org/janes-walk-me>.