

New Leaders Chosen for the Island Commons

August 4, 2026 -- The Board of Directors of the Island Commons is pleased to announce that Dennis Johnson will assume the newly created position of Executive Director of the Island Commons on October 1, 2026.

He will replace current administrator, Amy Rich, who has led the Commons since 2011 and earlier this year expressed a desire to step down from the job once a replacement is ready.

The board also is pleased to announce that Christina Phipps will assume a new position, Resident Care Director, expanding her current role as manager of residential care. Christina will oversee care delivery services for residents, clients served by the Commons' in-home care service, Chebeague Cares, and adult day care and respite care. Phipps will assume her new duties immediately.

The Island Commons is a seven-bed residential care facility licensed by the State of Maine. Since opening in 1999, it has provided care for more than 150 elders, allowing islanders to remain in their community when they can no longer live independently.

Johnson, who grew up on Chebeague and retains close ties with the island, is a graduate of Springfield College and holds an MBA in public administration and nonprofit management. He currently works for Lewiston Housing Associates in Lewiston, Maine. He has served on the Island Commons Board of Directors for three years and is currently the board's vice-president.

Phipps joined the Commons' caregiving team in 2013 and became resident care manager in 2019. She currently directs day-to-day operations, manages regulatory compliance and oversees a team of 20 full- and part-time caregivers. Her compassion and commitment to eldercare have made her an invaluable member of the Commons' team as well as the Chebeague community.

"The leadership and dedication that Amy Rich has provided to the Commons over the years leaves giant shoes to fill," said Susan Stranahan, president of the Commons board. "We believe Dennis Johnson, with his leadership skills as well as knowledge of, and strong ties to Chebeague, will carry the Commons forward in its mission in coming years. Christina Phipps' dedication as a care team leader will build on the capacity of the Commons to serve the Chebeague community now and in the future. We look forward to a dynamic partnership."