

December 5, 2025

Hello, Matinicus Island neighbors,

As December begins and some of us think about making a few annual charitable donations, I would like to propose a project, and invite a small contribution, should you be in a position to help.

The community on Matinicus Island owns three Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs,) all roughly 20 years old. Two are the "Defibtech" brand (just like the trainer AED we use in CPR class, which you will have tried out if you have taken that course on the island from me). One, we purchased with the first year's collection of "bottle back money" from the island's new recycling program. The second was paid for largely with a type of public safety grant that no longer exists.

Our third AED is another well-known brand, donated to the island by an individual who had it as surplus (an over-order) from a large mainland construction project with which he was associated.

One of the AEDs is routinely kept at my house with the rest of my emergency response equipment, and another spends much of the year in a box labeled "AED" on the outside of the shed beside the Town Office. The third is currently aboard the passenger vessel *Robin R*.

There is no reason to assume these older units would not work in the event of a cardiac arrest. One was used in 2022 on Dan Lewis, and another earlier this year when Sam Macleod passed away. However, according to the Defibtech company, after that length of time (20+ years,) the units ought to be replaced before too much longer. "Put replacing them on your list," the company advised me, when I called to order a new battery after using one of the Defibtechs.

I would like to replace at least one AED with a new one for the island. The "bottle back money" fund can start this by contributing \$250.00 right now. A new Defibtech AED costs around \$1300.00 (no brand is inexpensive). If it becomes possible to purchase two, that would be ideal.

There may be other organizations or agencies which might be in a position to help us financially, but as a rule, these need to see a level of community interest first, so I am asking for individual contributions to start.

By the way, I am not looking for "hand-me-down" units from other towns or businesses, as there is no sense having an AED unless we are absolutely certain it is in proper working order, will give us many years, and that it contains the most recent software (in accordance with the most recent research related to defibrillation). I also feel strongly that any (multiple) AEDs we have here be the same model, so that we can have a trainer unit for CPR class which will resemble the real AEDs in use on the island.

I have spoken with Dorian Edwin, our municipal treasurer, about keeping a record of any contributions she receives earmarked for the purchase of a new AED for the island. Checks may be written to "Matinicus Plantation," with AED in the memo, and sent to either me at P.O. Box 254, Matinicus, or to the Matinicus Isle Plt. Treasurer at P.O. Box 198. A receipt for tax purposes will gladly be sent back if you wish.

Please note that "Matinicus Island Rescue" no longer exists as a separate agency, and that this fundraiser is on behalf of the Plantation itself in its informal role as supplier of emergency/first aid equipment for volunteer responders and "Good Samaritans."

CPR saves are rare, admittedly, but they do happen, and usually a shock from an AED is required if the cardiac arrest victim is to have any chance at survival. Please help us collect funds to update this important tool. A donation of \$50.00 would go a long way!

Many thanks,

Eva Murray, EMT, WFR, American Heart Association BLS/CPR Instructor

Matinicus Island, Maine