**Update from the Star of Hope Foundation**

***A setback for The Lodge***

Last year we reported on the status of the four Vinalhaven properties that artist Robert Indiana left to the Star of Hope Foundation, the sole beneficiary of his estate. A building at 7 Windy Way and the Sail Loft at 3 Clamshell Alley both have been razed due to their poor and unsafe conditions. A third property, at 10 Main St. remains unoccupied and will need further investment to make it habitable.

The fourth and most significant of the properties is the former Star of Hope Lodge on Main Street, where Mr. Indiana lived and worked. Years of neglect had taken its toll on “The Lodge” by the time the Foundation took ownership, and we have already spent several million dollars on stabilizing the building and making some cosmetic improvements.

As we noted in previous reports, we decided to pause further work on The Lodge until the board completes strategic planning and gets a better handle on the foundation’s financial assets, which includes settling legal issues related to copyright payments, inspecting, appraising and securing artwork that now belongs to the foundation, and conducting additional engineering assessments.

Unfortunately, our plans have experienced another major setback.

While most of the work on The Lodge so far has involved stabilizing and securing the front and side walls of the structure, the board has subsequently learned that the entire back wall – the north wall facing the pond – needs to be replaced if the building is ever to be usable again. This obviously is a serious concern and a major expense. In addition, FEMA maps place The Lodge in a flood zone, making insurance prohibitive.

All of this creates a huge dilemma for the foundation, and the board continues in-depth discussions about the future of The Lodge given these challenges. In the near term, we will do as many on the island are already doing – monitor the magnitude of sea level rise and storm surge, along with closely following the progress of the Main Street project.

***Board Chair Emily Lane***

When board chair Larry Sterrs retired last summer, two of the foundation’s board members, Emily Lane and Paul Bird, agreed to serve as co-chairs. Paul, a longtime summer resident of Vinalhaven and senior partner at the New York law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton, has since stepped aside as co-chair.

Emily, a Vinalhaven resident and president of Blue Lobster Consulting, LLC will continue to serve as chair and enjoys the strong support of all board members as we work to carry out the mission of the foundation.

***NY Gallery now representing the foundation***

The foundation is pleased to announce that it has entered into a long-term relationship with the Kasmin Gallery in New York City. Founded in 1989, Kasmin today represents over forty internationally renowned artists and estates.

This also marks a homecoming of sorts. The gallery’s founder, the late Paul Kasmin, who championed artists with an independent vision throughout his career, represented Mr. Indiana for a number of years. His sons, who now run the gallery, fondly remember as young boys accompanying their father on trips to Maine in the summer to visit Indiana on Vinalhaven.

Kasmin is hosting an exhibit of Mr. Indiana’s work at its gallery at 509 West 27th Street, New York, from February 27–March 29, 2025. Entitled *Robert Indiana: The Source, 1959–1969*, the exhibition will, according to Kasmin’s website, “provide a deeper understanding of Indiana as an artist whose output remains emblematic of American culture.”

The exhibitions are receiving significant attention in the art world. Here is a link to article in *Art Daily* that notes our collaboration with the Kasmin Gallery in what is described as a “landmark” exhibition: <https://artdaily.com/news/178621/Robert-Indiana--The-Source--1959-1969---A-landmark-exhibition-opens-at-Kasmin-Gallery>

[www.starofhopefoundation.org](http://www.starofhopefoundation.org)