

Risk Factors Comparison 2025-03-11 to 2024-03-11 Form: 10-K

Legend: **New Text** ~~Removed Text~~ Unchanged Text **Moved Text Section**

An investment in our common stock is subject to risks inherent to our business. The material risks and uncertainties that management believes affect us are described below. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below, together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference herein. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties that management is not aware of or focused on or that management currently deems immaterial may also impair our business operations. This Annual Report is qualified in its entirety by these risk factors. If any of the events described in the risk factors should actually occur, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. If this were to happen, the value of our securities could decline significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment. **Credit Risks Deterioration in local economies..... from environmental contamination emanating from the property**. Liquidity and Interest Rate Risks Interest rate volatility could significantly reduce our profitability. Our earnings and cash flows are largely dependent upon net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between interest income earned on interest-bearing assets such as loans and securities and interest expense paid on interest-bearing liabilities such as deposits and borrowed funds. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond our control, including general economic conditions, **both domestic and foreign**, demand for loans, securities and deposits, policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies. Changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, **fiscal policy, including expansion of U. S. federal deficit spending and resultant debt issuance**, or the slope of the yield curve could influence not only the interest received on loans and securities and the amount of interest paid on deposits and borrowings, but such changes could also affect (i) the ability to originate loans and obtain deposits, (ii) the fair value of our financial assets and liabilities, and (iii) the average duration of loans and securities that are collateralized by mortgages. If the interest rates paid on deposits and other borrowings increase at a faster rate than the interest rates received on loans and other investments, net interest income, and therefore earnings, could be adversely affected. Earnings could also be adversely affected if the interest rates received on loans and other investments fall more quickly than the interest rates paid on deposits and other borrowings. If interest rates decline, higher-rate loans and investments may be subject to prepayment risk, which could negatively impact our net interest margin. Conversely, if interest rates increase, loans and investment securities may be subject to extension risk, which could negatively impact our net interest margin as well. We are required to maintain sufficient capital and adequate liquidity. As a banking organization, our capital and liquidity are subject to regulation and supervision by banking regulators. We are required to maintain minimum levels of capital. The proportion of the Bank's deposit account balances that exceed FDIC insurance limits may expose the Bank to enhanced liquidity risk as it relates to maintaining such levels of capital as uninsured depositors historically have been more likely to withdraw their deposits. In addition, our banking regulators could require us to maintain more and higher quality capital than previously expected. Our banking regulators could also require us to hold higher levels of short-term investments, thereby limiting our ability to invest in longer-term or less liquid assets at higher yields. The need to maintain capital and liquidity could result in our being required to take steps to increase our regulatory capital and may dilute shareholder value or limit our ability to pay dividends or otherwise return capital to our investors through stock repurchases. In addition, if we fail to maintain appropriate levels of capital or liquidity, we could become subject to formal or informal enforcement actions that may impose restrictions on our business, including limiting our lending activities or our ability to expand, requiring us to raise additional capital (which may be dilutive to shareholders) or requiring regulatory approval to pay dividends or otherwise return capital to shareholders. See Item 1. "Business — Regulation and Supervision — Capital Adequacy and Prompt Corrective Action" for additional information on capital requirements applicable to us and the Bank. ~~23The~~ **The** Company's earnings may not grow if we are unable to successfully attract core deposits and lending opportunities and execute opportunities to generate fee-based income. The Company has experienced growth, and our future business strategy is to continue to expand. Historically, the growth of our loans and deposits has been the principal factor in our increase in net-interest income. In the event that we are unable to execute our business strategy of continued growth in loans and deposits, our earnings could be adversely impacted. The Company's ability to continue to grow depends, in part, upon our ability to expand our market share, to successfully attract core deposits and identify loan and investment opportunities, as well as opportunities to generate fee-based income. Our ability to manage growth successfully will also depend on whether we can continue to efficiently fund asset growth and maintain asset quality and cost controls, as well as on factors beyond our control, such as economic conditions and interest-rate trends. Wholesale funding sources may prove insufficient to replace deposits, ~~and~~ **and** support operations and future growth. We must maintain sufficient funds to respond to the needs of customers. To manage liquidity, we use a number of funding sources in addition to core deposit growth, loan repayments and maturities of loans and securities. These sources include FHLB and the Federal Reserve Bank ("FRB") advances, proceeds from the sale of securities and loans and liquidity resources at the holding company. Our ability to manage liquidity will be severely constrained if unable to maintain access to funding or if adequate financing is not available to accommodate future growth at acceptable costs. In addition, if we need to rely heavily on more expensive funding sources to support future growth, revenues may not increase proportionately to cover costs. In this case, our operating margins and profitability would be adversely affected. **23Additionally, any deterioration in the FHLB's performance or financial condition may affect our ability to access funding and / or require us to deem the required investment in FHLB stock to be impaired. If we are not able to access funding through the FHLB, we may not be able to meet our liquidity needs, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition. Similarly, if we deem all or part of**

our investment in FHLB stock impaired, such action could have an adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. Loss of deposits or a change in deposit mix could increase our cost of funding. Deposits are a low cost and stable source of funding. We compete with banks and other financial institutions for deposits. Funding costs may increase if deposits are lost and we are forced to replace them with more expensive sources of funding, if customers shift their deposits into higher cost products or if we need to raise interest rates to avoid losing deposits. Higher funding costs reduce our net interest income, net interest margin, and net income. **If we are unable to access the capital markets, have prolonged net deposit outflows, or our borrowing costs increase, our liquidity and competitive position will be negatively affected. Liquidity is essential to our business. We must maintain sufficient funds to respond to the needs of depositors and borrowers. To manage liquidity, we draw upon a number of funding sources in addition to in- market deposit growth and repayments and maturities of loans and investments. Any inability to access the capital markets, illiquidity or volatility in the capital markets, the decrease in value of eligible collateral or increased collateral requirements (including as a result of credit concerns for short- term borrowing), changes to our relationships with our funding providers based on real or perceived changes in our risk profile, prolonged federal government shutdowns, or changes in regulations or regulatory guidance, or other events could negatively affect our access to or cost of funding, affecting our ongoing ability to accommodate liability maturities and deposit withdrawals, meet contractual obligations, or fund asset growth and new business initiatives at a reasonable cost, in a timely manner and without adverse consequences. Additionally, our liquidity or cost of funds may be negatively impacted by the unwillingness or inability of the Federal Reserve Board to act as lender of last resort, unexpected simultaneous draws on lines of credit or deposits, the withdrawal of or failure to attract customer deposits, or increased regulatory liquidity, capital and margin requirements. Although we maintain a liquid asset portfolio and have implemented strategies to maintain sufficient and diverse sources of funding to accommodate planned, as well as unanticipated, changes in assets, liabilities, and off- balance sheet commitments under various economic conditions, a substantial, unexpected, or prolonged change in the level or cost of liquidity could have a material adverse effect on us. If the cost effectiveness or the availability of supply in these credit markets is reduced for a prolonged period of time, our funding needs may require us to access funding and manage liquidity by other means. These alternatives may include generating client deposits, extending the maturity of wholesale borrowings, borrowing under certain secured borrowing arrangements, using relationships developed with a variety of fixed income investors, selling or securitizing loans, and further managing loan growth and investment opportunities. These alternative means of funding may result in an increase to the overall cost of funds and may not be available under stressed conditions, which would cause us to liquidate a portion of our liquid asset portfolio to meet any funding needs.** Our access to funds from subsidiaries may be restricted. The Company is a separate and distinct legal entity from the Bank and its non- banking subsidiaries. The Company depends on dividends, distributions and other payments from its banking and non- banking subsidiaries to fund dividend payments on its common stock, debt service of subordinated borrowings, fund stock repurchase program and to fund strategic initiatives or other obligations. The Company’ s subsidiaries are subject to laws that authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the flow of funds from those subsidiaries to the Company based on assertion that certain payments from subsidiaries are considered an unsafe or unsound practice, which could impede our access to funds that we may need to make payments on our obligations or dividend payments, if and when declared from time to time by our board of directors in its sole discretion out of funds legally available for that purpose. Prepayments of loans may negatively impact our business as customers may prepay the principal amount of their outstanding loans at any time. The speeds at which such prepayments occur, as well as the size of such prepayments, are within the customers’ discretion. Fluctuations in interest rates, in certain circumstances, may also lead to high levels of loan prepayments, which may also have an adverse impact on net interest income. If customers prepay the principal amount of their loans, and we are unable to lend those funds to other borrowers or invest the funds at the same or higher interest rates, interest income will be ~~reduced~~ **reduced**. A significant reduction in interest income could have a negative impact on results of operations and financial condition. Secondary mortgage market conditions may adversely affect **our** financial condition and earnings. The secondary mortgage markets are impacted by interest rates and investor demand for residential mortgage loans and increased investor yield requirements for these loans. These conditions may fluctuate in the future. As a result, a prolonged period of secondary market illiquidity may reduce our loan production volumes, change loan portfolio composition, and reduce operating results. Secondary markets are affected by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginny Mae for loan purchases that meet their conforming loan requirements. These agencies could limit purchases of conforming loans due to capital constraints, changes in conforming loan criteria or other factors. Proposals to reform mortgage finance could affect the role of these agencies and the market for conforming loans. The performance of our investment securities portfolio is subject to fluctuation due to changes in interest rates and market conditions, including credit deterioration of the issuers of individual securities. Changes in interest rates can negatively affect the performance of most of our investment securities. Interest rate volatility can reduce unrealized gains or increase unrealized losses in our portfolio, as was the case in 2023 with the rising rate environment. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors including monetary policies, domestic and international economic, social and political conditions and issues, including trade disputes, global health pandemics, and other factors beyond our control. Fluctuations in interest rates can materially affect both the returns on and market value of our investment securities. In addition, from time to time we may restructure portions of our investment securities portfolio as part of our asset liability management strategies or in response to liquidity needs, and we may incur losses, which may be material, in connection with any such restructuring. If we were to sell any of these securities before their value recovers, including as a result of asset liability management strategies or in response to liquidity needs, we would be required to recognize these losses and the recognition of those losses could materially and adversely affect our results of operations, capital and financial. Impairment of investment securities or goodwill could result in a negative impact on our results of operations. In assessing whether the impairment of securities is related to a deterioration in credit factors, we consider the

length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, and the intent and ability to retain the securities for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value in the near term. Under current accounting standards, goodwill is not amortized but, instead, is subject to impairment tests on at least an annual basis or more frequently if an event occurs or circumstances change that reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. A decline in our stock price or occurrence of a triggering event following any of its quarterly earnings releases and prior to the filing of the periodic report for that period could, under certain circumstances, require performance of a goodwill impairment test and result in an impairment charge being recorded for that period which was not reflected in such earnings release. During 2024-2023, our annual impairment test conducted in October, using discounted cash flows and market-based approaches, indicated that the estimated fair value of our sole reporting unit “ Bar Harbor Bank & Trust ” exceeded the carrying value. In a future assessment, we could conclude that all or a portion of our goodwill is impaired, which would result in a non-cash charge to earnings. Revenues from our wealth management business are significant to earnings. Generating returns that satisfy customers in a variety of asset classes is important to maintaining existing business and attracting new business. Administering or managing assets in accordance with the terms of governing documents and applicable laws is also important to client satisfaction. Failure in either of the foregoing areas can expose us to liability, and result in a decrease in revenues and earnings. Our wealth management business may be negatively affected by changes in economic and market conditions. A decline in economic conditions, such as recession, economic downturn, and / or inflationary conditions, changes in domestic and foreign economic conditions, volatility in financial markets, and general trends in business and finance, all of which are beyond our control, could adversely impact the market value of wealth management AUM, which are primarily marketable securities, and the fee revenues derived from the management of these assets.

Operational Risks We are subject to a variety of operational risks, including reputational risk, and the risk of fraud or theft by employees or outsiders, which may adversely affect our business and results of operations. We are exposed to many types of operational risks, including reputational risk, legal and compliance risk, the risk of fraud or theft by employees or outsiders, and unauthorized transactions by employees or operational errors, including clerical or record-keeping errors or those resulting from faulty or disabled computer or telecommunications systems. If personal, non-public, confidential, or proprietary information of customers in our possession were to be mishandled or misused, we could suffer significant regulatory consequences, reputational damage, and financial loss. Because the nature of the financial services business involves a high volume of transactions, certain errors may be repeated or compounded before they are discovered and successfully rectified. Our necessary dependence upon automated systems to record and process transactions and its large transaction volume may further increase the risk that technical flaws or employee tampering or manipulation of those systems will result in losses that are difficult to detect. We may also be subject to disruptions of our operating systems arising from events that are wholly or partially beyond our control (e. g., computer viruses or electrical or telecommunications outages, natural disaster, pandemics, or other damage to property or physical assets), which may give rise to disruption of service to customers and to financial loss or liability. We are further exposed to the risk that our external vendors may be unable to fulfill their contractual obligations (or will be subject to the same risk of fraud or operational errors by their respective employees) and to the risk that our vendors’ business continuity and data security systems prove to be inadequate. The occurrence of any of these risks could result in a diminished ability to operate (e. g., by requiring us to expend significant resources to correct the defect), as well as potential liability to customers, reputational damage, and regulatory intervention. In addition, we are dependent on our reputation within our market area, as a trusted and responsible financial company, for all aspects of our relationships with customers, employees, vendors, third-party service providers and others with whom we conduct business or potential future business, particularly because our business is primarily concentrated in Northern New England. Our actual or perceived failure, including, to (i) identify and address potential conflicts of interest, ethical issues, money-laundering, or privacy issues; (ii) meet legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the Bank and to the Company; (iii) maintain the privacy of customer and accompanying personal information; (iv) maintain adequate record keeping; (v) engage in proper sales and trading practices; and (vi) identify the legal, reputational, credit, liquidity and market risks inherent in our products; or any action of one of our employees that results in actual or perceived misconduct or error, among other things, could give rise to reputational risk that could cause harm to the Bank and our business prospects. If we fail to address any of these issues in an appropriate manner, we could be subject to additional legal risks, which, in turn, could increase the size and number of litigation claims and damages asserted or subject us to enforcement actions, fines and penalties and cause us to incur related costs and expenses. Because we primarily serve individuals and businesses located in Northern New England, any negative impact resulting from reputational harm, including any impact on our ability to attract and retain customers and employees, likely would be greater than if our business were more geographically diverse. Disruptions to our information systems and security breaches may adversely affect our business and reputation. In the ordinary course of business, we rely on electronic communications and information systems to conduct its businesses and to store sensitive data, including financial information regarding its customers. The integrity of information systems is under significant threat from cyberattacks by third parties, including through coordinated attacks sponsored by foreign nations and criminal organizations to disrupt business operations and other compromises to data and systems for political or criminal purposes. We employ an in-depth, layered, defense approach that leverages people, processes and technology to manage and maintain cybersecurity controls. Notwithstanding the strength of defensive measures, the threat from cyberattacks is severe, attacks are sophisticated and attackers respond rapidly to changes in defensive measures. Cybersecurity risks may also occur with our third-party service providers, and may interfere with their ability to fulfill their contractual obligations to us, with additional potential for financial loss or liability that could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations. We offer our customers the ability to bank remotely and provide other technology-based products and services, which services include the secure transmission of confidential information over the Internet and other remote channels. To the extent that our customers’ systems are not secure or are otherwise compromised, our network could be vulnerable to unauthorized access,

malicious software, phishing schemes and other security breaches. To the extent that our activities or the activities of its customers or third- party service providers involve ~~the~~ **the** storage and transmission of confidential information, security breaches and malicious software could expose us to claims, regulatory scrutiny, litigation and other possible liabilities. Information security risks have generally increased in recent years, and continue to increase, in part because of the proliferation of new technologies, the implementation of work- from- home arrangements, the use of the Internet and telecommunications technologies to conduct financial transactions, and the increased sophistication and activities of organized crime, hackers, terrorists, activists, and other external parties, some of which may be linked to terrorist organizations or hostile foreign governments. As cyber threats continue to evolve, we may be required to expend significant additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our systems or to investigate and remediate vulnerabilities. System enhancements and updates may also create risks associated with implementing and integrating new systems. Due to the complexity and interconnectedness of information technology systems, the process of enhancing our systems can itself create a risk of systems disruptions and security issues. ~~While~~ **27While** to date we believe that we have not experienced a significant compromise, significant data loss or material financial losses related to cybersecurity attacks, our systems and those of our customers and third- party service providers, are under constant threat and may experience a significant event in the future. We may suffer material financial losses related to these risks or be subject to liability for compromises to its customers or third- party providers. Any such losses or liabilities could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations, and could expose us to reputation risk, the loss of client business, increased operational costs, as well as additional regulatory scrutiny, possible litigation, and related financial liability. These risks also include possible business interruption, including the inability to access critical information and systems. We have a continuing need for technological change, and we may not have the resources to implement new technology effectively, or we may experience operational challenges when implementing new technology or technology needed to compete effectively with larger institutions may not be available to us on a cost- effective basis. The financial services industry undergoes rapid technological changes with frequent introductions of new technology- driven products and services, including developments in **artificial intelligence** telecommunications, data processing, automation, internet- based banking, debit cards and so- called “ smart cards ” and remote deposit capture. In addition to serving clients better, the effective use of technology increases efficiency and enables financial institutions to reduce costs. Our future success will depend, at least in part, upon our ability to address the needs of our clients by using technology to provide products and services that will satisfy client demands for convenience, as well as to create additional efficiencies in our operations as we continue to grow and expand our products and service offerings. We offer electronic banking services for consumer and business customers via our website, including Internet banking and electronic bill payment, as well as mobile banking. We also offer debit cards, ATM cards, and automatic and ACH transfers. We may experience operational challenges as we implement these new technology enhancements or products, which could impair our ability to realize the anticipated benefits from such new technology or require us to incur significant costs to remedy any such challenges in a timely manner. Many of our larger competitors have substantially greater resources to invest in technological improvements. Third parties upon which we rely for our technology needs may not be able to develop on a cost- effective basis the systems that will enable us to keep pace with such developments. As a result, competitors may be able to offer additional or superior products compared to those that we will be able to provide, which would put us at a competitive disadvantage. We may lose clients seeking new technology- driven products and services to the extent we are unable to provide such products and services. Accordingly, the ability to keep pace with technological change is important and the failure to do so could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our operations are reliant on outside vendors. Our operations are dependent on the use of certain outside vendors for its day- to- day operations. Vendors may not perform in accordance with established performance standards required in their agreements for any number of reasons including a change in the vendor’ s senior management, financial condition, product line or mix and how they support existing customers, or simply change their strategic focus putting us at risk. While we have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to mitigate risk in all phases of vendor management from selection to performance monitoring, the failure of a vendor to perform in accordance with contractual agreements could be disruptive to our business, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. ~~26We~~ **We may incur significant losses as a result of ineffective risk management processes and strategies. We seek to monitor and control our risk exposure through a risk and control framework encompassing a variety of separate but complementary financial, credit, operational, compliance, and legal reporting systems; internal controls; management review processes; and other mechanisms. In some cases, management of our risks depends upon the use of analytical and / or forecasting models, which, in turn, rely on assumptions and estimates. If the models used to mitigate these risks are inadequate, or the assumption or estimates are inaccurate or otherwise flawed, we may fail to adequately protect against risks and may incur losses. While we believe that we have adopted appropriate management and compliance programs, compliance risks will continue to exist, particularly as we anticipate and adapt to new and evolving laws, rules and regulations and evolving interpretations by regulatory authorities. In addition there may be risks that exist, or that develop in the future, that we have not appropriately anticipated, identified or mitigated, which could lead to unexpected losses and our results of operations or financial condition could be materially adversely affected. 28Our internal controls, procedures and policies may fail or be circumvented. Management regularly reviews and updates our internal controls, disclosure controls and procedures, and corporate governance policies and procedures. Any system of controls, however well- designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the system are met. Any failure or circumvention of the controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. We** may be adversely affected by the soundness of other financial institutions. Our ability to engage in routine funding transactions could be adversely affected by the actions and commercial soundness of other financial institutions.

Bank and non-bank financial **Financial** services companies are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty and other relationships. **Actual** Further, when volatility, market events **involving limited liquidity, defaults, non-performance** or similar issues **other adverse developments that** affect a subset of financial institutions, **transactional counterparties** or when there are news reports or high-profile incidents relating to trends, concerns, and other issues **companies** in the banking industry, the ramifications can affect the sector as a whole, regardless of the effect, or lack thereof, on any specific institution. We have exposure to different industries and counterparties through transactions with counterparties in the bank and non-bank financial services industries **industry or**, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks and other **the** institutional clients. As a result, defaults by, or even rumors or questions about, one or more bank or non-bank financial services companies, or the bank or non-bank financial services industries **industry** generally, **or concerns or rumors about any events of these kinds or other similar risks,** have **in the past and may in the future** led **lead** to market-wide liquidity problems. **If such events were to occur again in the future and result in the receivership of financial institutions, there is no guarantee that the systemic risk exception could be invoked to losses allow the FDIC to complete its resolution of such financial institutions in a manner that fully protects depositors or counterparties.** We have exposure to a number of different counterparties, and we routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial industry, including **brokers and dealers, other commercial banks, investment banks, and other financial institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of defaults-- default of our counterparty or customer. In addition, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be liquidated or by other institutions.** Future events of this nature could have an adverse effect on our **or business, is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the financial condition instrument exposure due to us. There is no assurance that any such losses would not materially and adversely affect our** results of operations. Changes in the federal, state or local tax laws may negatively impact our financial performance and we are subject to examinations and challenges by tax authorities. We are subject to federal and applicable state tax laws and regulations. Changes in these tax laws and regulations, some of which may be retroactive to previous periods, could increase our effective tax rates and, as a result, could negatively affect our current and future financial performance. Furthermore, tax laws and regulations are often complex and require interpretation. In the normal course of business, we are routinely subject to examinations and challenges from federal and applicable state tax authorities regarding the amount of taxes due in connection with investments we have made and the businesses in which we have engaged. Recently, federal and state taxing authorities have become increasingly aggressive in challenging tax positions taken by financial institutions. These tax positions may relate to tax compliance, sales and use, franchise, gross receipts, payroll, property and income tax issues, including tax base, apportionment and tax credit planning. The challenges made by tax authorities may result in adjustments to the timing or amount of taxable income or deductions or the allocation of income among tax jurisdictions. If any such challenges are made and are not resolved in our favor, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. **The performance of our investment securities portfolio..... from the management of these assets.** Strategic and External Risks Changes and instability in economic conditions, geopolitical matters and financial markets, including a contraction of economic activity, could adversely impact our business, results of operations and financial condition. Our success depends, to a certain extent, upon global, domestic and local economic and political conditions, as well as governmental monetary policies. **Unfavorable or uncertain economic Conditions-conditions can be caused by declines in economic growth, business activity, or investor or business confidence; limitations on the availability of or increases in the cost of credit and capital; increases in inflation or interest rates; uncertainties regarding fiscal and monetary policies; the timing and impact of changing governmental policies, including changes in guidance and interpretation by regulatory authorities; changes in trade policies by the U. S. or other countries, such as tariffs** changes in interest rates, money supply, levels of employment and other factors beyond our **or** control may have a negative impact on economic activity. Any contraction of economic activity, including an economic recession, may adversely affect our asset quality, deposit levels and loan demand and, therefore, our earnings. In particular, interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are beyond our control, including global, domestic and local economic conditions and the policies of various governmental and regulatory **retaliatory tariffs as** agencies and, specifically, the **those proposed** FRB. Throughout 2023 the Federal Open Market Committee ("FOMC") raised the target range for the Federal funds rate on four separate occasions and **citing factors including the hardships caused by the new U. S. Administration; ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, an economic slowdown in China, continued global supply chain disruptions ; consumer spending; employment and imbalances, and increased inflationary pressure-** the FOMC has indicated that ongoing increases may be appropriate. The tightening of the FRB's monetary policies, including repeated and aggressive increases in the target range for the Federal funds rate as well as the conclusion of the FRB's tapering of asset purchases, together with ongoing economic and geopolitical instability, increases the risk of an economic recession. Although forecasts have varied, many economists are projecting that U. S. economic growth will slow and inflation will remain elevated in the coming quarters, potentially resulting in a contraction of U. S. gross domestic output in 2024. Any such downturn, especially domestically and in the regions in which we operate, may adversely affect our asset quality, deposit levels, loan demand; **labor shortages; challenging labor market conditions; wage stagnation; federal government shutdowns; energy prices; home prices; commercial property values; bankruptcies** and results of operations. **As a result default by a significant market participant or class of counterparties; natural disasters; climate change; epidemics; pandemics; terrorist attacks; acts of war; or a combination of the these or other** economic and geopolitical factors discussed above, financial institutions also face heightened credit risk, among other forms of risk. Of note, because we have a significant amount of real estate loans, decreases in real estate values could adversely affect the value of property used as collateral, which, in turn, can adversely affect the value of our loan and investment portfolios. Adverse economic developments, specifically including inflation-related impacts, may have a negative effect on the ability of our borrowers to make timely repayments of their loans or to finance future home purchases. Moreover, while certain commercial real estate values have

stabilized as demand has returned to pre-pandemic levels in several markets; the post-pandemic outlook for commercial real estate demand remains dependent on the broader economic environment and, specifically, how major subsectors respond to a rising interest rate environment, the reduction of office utilization due to the impact of hybrid working patterns, greater flexibility for work location, and higher prices for commodities, goods and services. In each case, credit performance over the medium- and long- term is susceptible to economic and market forces and therefore forecasts remain uncertain. Instability and uncertainty in the commercial and residential real estate markets, including headwinds for mortgage rates, lease rates and landlord cash flows, as well as in the broader commercial and retail credit markets, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. 28Monetary 29Monetary policy and economic environment could impact our financial performance. Our earnings are significantly affected by the monetary and fiscal policies of governmental authorities, including the Federal Reserve Board. Among the instruments of monetary policy used by the Federal Reserve Board to implement these objectives are open- market operations in U. S. Government securities and federal funds, changes in the discount rate on member bank borrowings, and changes in reserve requirements against member bank deposits. These instruments of monetary policy are used in varying combinations to influence the overall level of bank loans, investments, and deposits, and the interest rates charged on loans and paid for deposits. The Federal Reserve Board frequently uses these instruments of monetary policy, especially its open- market operations and the discount rate, to influence the level of interest rates, thereby affecting the strength of the economy, the level of inflation, or the price of the dollar in foreign exchange markets. The monetary policies of the Federal Reserve Board have had a significant effect on the operating results of banking institutions in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future. It is not possible to predict the nature of future changes in monetary and fiscal policies, or the effect which they may have on our business and earnings . **Increased market volatility and adverse changes in financial or capital market conditions may increase our market risk. Our liquidity, competitive position, business, results of operations and financial condition are affected by market risks such as changes in interest rates, fluctuations in equity, commodity and futures prices, the implied volatility of interest rates and credit spreads and other economic and business factors. These market risks may adversely affect, among other things, the value of our securities, the cost of debt capital and our access to credit markets, the value of wealth management AUM and the fee income related to wealth management AUM, customer allocation of capital among investment alternatives, and our competitiveness with respect to deposit pricing. In times of market stress or other unforeseen circumstances, previously uncorrelated indicators may become correlated, which may limit the effectiveness of our strategies to manage these risks** . Involvement in wealth management creates risks associated with the industry. Our wealth management operations present special risks not borne by institutions that focus exclusively on other traditional retail and commercial banking products. For example, the investment advisory industry is subject to fluctuations in the stock market and interest rate volatility that may have a significant adverse effect on transaction fees, client activity and client investment portfolio gains and losses. Also, additional or modified regulations may adversely affect our wealth management operations. In addition, our wealth management operations, are dependent on a small number of established financial advisors, whose departure could result in the loss of a significant number of client accounts. A significant decline in fees and commissions or trading losses suffered in the investment portfolio could adversely affect our income and potentially require the contribution of additional capital to support our operations. Strong competition within our markets may significantly impact profitability. We compete with an ever- increasing array of financial service providers. See the section entitled “ Competition ” in Part I. Item 1, “ Business ” of this Annual Report for additional competitor information. Competition from nationwide banks, as well as local institutions, continues to mount in our markets. To compete, we focus on quality customer service, making decisions at the local level, maintaining long- term customer relationships, building customer loyalty, and providing products and services designed to address the specific needs of customers. Failure to perform in any of these areas could significantly weaken our competitive position, which could adversely affect growth and profitability. Market changes may adversely affect demand for our services and impact revenue, costs, and earnings. Channels for servicing our customers are evolving rapidly, with less reliance on traditional branch facilities, increased use of e- commerce channels, and demand for universal bankers and other relationship managers who can service multiple product lines. We have an ongoing process for evaluating the profitability of its branch system and other office and operational facilities. The identification of unprofitable operations and facilities can lead to restructuring charges and introduce the risk of disruptions to revenues and customer relationships. We compete with larger financial institutions who are rapidly evolving their service channels and escalating the costs of evolving the service process. **Our business is concentrated in and largely dependent upon the continued growth and welfare of the general geographic markets in which we operate. Our operations are concentrated in Northern New England (and in particular, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont). As a result, the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows are significantly impacted by changes in the economic conditions in those areas. Therefore, the Company's financial performance generally, and in particular, the ability of borrowers to pay interest on and repay the principal of outstanding loans and the value of collateral securing these loans, is highly dependent upon the business environment in the markets where the Company operates. The Company's success depends to a significant extent upon the business activity, population, income levels, deposits and real estate activity in these markets. Although the Company's clients' business and financial interests may extend well beyond these markets, adverse economic conditions that affect these markets could disproportionately reduce the Company's growth rate, affect the ability of the Company's clients to repay their loans to the Company, affect the value of collateral underlying loans and generally affect the Company's financial condition and results of operations. Because of the Company's geographic concentration, we are less able than other regional or national financial institutions to diversify our credit risks across multiple markets. For additional information on the Company's market area, see Part I, Item 1, " Business" of this Annual Report.** 29Expansion -- **Expansion** , growth, and acquisitions could negatively impact earnings if not successful. We may grow organically both by geographic expansion and through business line expansion, as well as through acquisitions. Success of these activities depends on our ability to continue to maintain and develop an infrastructure

appropriate to support and integrate such growth. Success may also depend on acceptance of the Bank by customers in these new markets and, in the case of expansion through acquisitions, these factors include the long- term recruitment and **retention** of key personnel and acquired customer relationships. Profitability depends on whether the marginal revenue generated in the new markets will offset the increased expenses of operating a larger entity, with more staff, more locations, and more product offerings. Failure to achieve any of these success factors may have a negative impact on our financial condition and results of operations. We may be adversely affected by continuous technological change. The financial services industry is continually undergoing rapid technological change with frequent introductions of new technology- driven products and services. The effective use of technology increases efficiency and enables financial institutions to better serve customers and to reduce costs. Our future **Future** success depends, in part, upon its ability to address the needs of customers by using technology to provide products and services that will satisfy customer demands, as well as to create additional operational efficiencies. The introduction of new products and services can entail significant time and resources. Our failure to manage risks and uncertainties associated with new products and services exposes us to enhanced risk of operational lapses which may result in the recognition of financial statement liabilities. Regulatory and internal control requirements, capital requirements, competitive alternatives, vendor relationships and shifting market preferences may also determine if such initiatives can be brought to market in a manner that is timely and attractive to our customers. Products and services relying on internet and mobile technologies may expose us to fraud and cybersecurity risks. Failure to successfully manage these risks in the development and implementation of new products or services could have a material adverse effect on our business and reputation. Societal responses to climate change could adversely affect our business and performance, including indirectly through impacts on our customers. Concerns over the long- term impacts of climate change have led and will continue to lead to governmental efforts around the world to mitigate those impacts. Consumers and businesses also may change their behavior on their own as a result of these concerns. Our company and customers will need to respond to new laws and regulations as well as consumer and business preferences resulting from climate change concerns. Our company and customers may face cost increases, asset value reductions and operating process changes, among other impacts. The impact on our customers will likely vary depending on their specific attributes. In addition, we could face reductions in creditworthiness on the part of some customers or in the value of assets securing loans. Our efforts to take these risks into account in making lending and other decisions may not be effective in protecting us from the negative impact of new laws and regulations or changes in consumer or business behavior. Factors associated with global climate change, including evolving and increasing regulations, increasing global concern and stakeholder scrutiny about climate change and extreme weather conditions could adversely affect our business, reputation, results of operations and financial position. There has been an increased focus from regulators and stakeholders on environmental, social, and governance (“ ESG ”) matters. Our failure or perceived failure to achieve our ESG goals, maintain ESG practices, or comply with emerging ESG regulations that meet evolving regulatory or stakeholder expectations could adversely affect public perception of our business, employee morale or patient or stakeholder support, expend corporate resources, result in substantial costs and expenses, result in legal or regulatory proceedings against the Company and negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations. Damage to our reputation may reduce demand for our services and thus have an adverse effect on our future financial performance, as well as require additional resources to rebuild our reputation. Global climate change also presents both immediate and long- term physical risks (such as extreme weather conditions) and risks associated with the transition to a low- carbon economy (such as regulatory or technology changes). These changes could result in, for example, closures of our banking offices and other facilities, and supply chain disruptions, as well as increased costs of products, commodities and energy (including utilities), and disruptions in our information systems, which in turn could negatively impact our business and results of operations. In addition, certain of our operations and facilities are located in regions that may be disproportionately impacted by the physical risks of climate change (including hurricanes and flooding), and we face the risk of losses incurred as a result of physical damage to our facilities and business interruptions caused by such events. We maintain property insurance coverage to address the impact of physical damage to our facilities and for business interruption losses. However, such insurance coverage may be insufficient to cover all losses and we may experience a material, adverse effect on our results of operations that is not recoverable through our insurance policies. Additionally, if we experience a significant increase in climate- related events that result in material losses we may be unable to obtain similar levels of property insurance coverage in the future or at rates that are significantly higher than our current rates. Changes in consumer preferences and additional legislation and regulatory requirements, including those associated with the transition to a low- carbon economy, may increase costs associated with compliance, the operation of our facilities and supplies. Regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions and energy inputs may also increase in coming years, which may adversely impact us through increased compliance costs for us and our suppliers and vendors. **Pandemics**, severe weather, natural disasters, acts of war or terrorism, and other external events could significantly impact our business and the business of our customers. **Future Pandemics, including the continuing COVID-19 pandemic**, severe weather, natural disasters, acts of war or terrorism, and other adverse external events could have a significant impact on our ability to conduct business. Such events could affect the stability of borrowers to repay outstanding loans, impair the value of collateral securing loans, cause significant property damage, result in loss of revenue and / or cause us to incur additional expenses. In particular, such events may have a particularly negative impact upon the business of customers who are engaged in the hospitality industry in our markets, which could have a direct negative impact on our business and results of operations. Further, work- from- home and other modified business practices may introduce additional operational risks, including cybersecurity and execution risks, which may result in inefficiencies or delays, and may affect our ability to, or the manner in which we, conduct our business activities. Legal, Regulatory and Compliance Risks We are subject to extensive government regulation and supervision, which may interfere with the ability to conduct business and may negatively impact our financial results. Banking regulations are primarily intended to protect depositors’ funds, the Federal Deposit Insurance Fund and the safety and soundness of the banking system as a whole, not shareholders.

These regulations affect our lending practices, capital structure, investment practices, dividend policy and growth, among other things. Congress and federal regulatory agencies continually review banking laws, regulations and policies for possible changes. Changes **We expect** to statutes **become subject to future laws, rules and** regulations or regulatory policies **beyond those currently proposed**, including changes **adopted or contemplated** in the U. S., as well as evolving interpretation **interpretations** or implementation of statutes **existing and future laws, rules and** regulations or policies, could affect us in substantial and unpredictable ways. Such changes **These and other restrictions** could subject us to additional costs, limit the types of financial services and products we can offer, and / or limit the pricing we can charge on certain banking services, among other things. Compliance personnel and resources may increase costs of operations and adversely impact earnings. We are subject to possible claims and **face significant legal risks, both from regulatory litigation- investigations** pertaining to fiduciary responsibilities **and proceedings and from private actions brought against us. As a participant in the financial services industry, many aspects of our business involve substantial risk of legal liability.** From time to time, customers **and others** make claims and take legal action pertaining to **our** the performance of **our responsibilities, including our responsibilities as a** fiduciary responsibilities. Whether customer claims and legal action related to **our** the performance of fiduciary **our** responsibilities are founded or unfounded, if such claims and legal actions are not resolved in a **manner favorable manner to us**, they may result in significant **expenses, attention from management and** financial liability. **Any financial liability** and / or adversely affect the market perception of us and products and services as well as impact customer demand for **or our** products and services. Failure to comply with laws, regulations or policies could result in sanctions by regulatory agencies, civil money penalties and / or reputation **reputational** damage, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, **which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our** financial condition and results of operations. While we have policies and procedures designed to prevent any such violations, there **There is** can be no assurance that such violations **litigation with private parties** will not increase in the future. Actions currently pending against us may result in judgments, settlements, fines, penalties or other results adverse to us, which could materially adversely affect **occur** **our** business, financial condition or results of operations, or cause serious reputational harm to us. We are subject to numerous laws designed to protect consumers, including the Community Reinvestment Act and fair lending laws, and **failure to comply with these laws could lead to a wide variety of sanctions. The CRA, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and other fair lending laws and regulations impose community investment and nondiscriminatory lending requirements on financial institutions. The CFPB, the Department of Justice and other federal agencies are responsible for enforcing these laws and regulations. A successful regulatory challenge to an institution's performance under the CRA, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act or other fair lending laws and regulations could result in a wide variety of sanctions, including damages and civil money penalties, injunctive relief, restrictions on mergers and acquisitions, restrictions on expansion and restrictions on entering new business lines. Private parties may also have the ability to challenge an institution's performance under fair lending laws in private class action litigation. Such actions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. 31** We may become subject to enforcement actions even though noncompliance was inadvertent or unintentional. The financial services industry is subject to intense scrutiny from bank supervisors in the examination process and aggressive enforcement of federal and state regulations, particularly with respect to mortgage- related practices and other consumer compliance matters, and compliance with anti- money laundering, BSA and OFAC regulations, and economic sanctions against certain foreign countries and nationals. Enforcement actions may be initiated for violations of laws and regulations and unsafe or unsound practices. We maintain systems and procedures designed to ensure that we comply with applicable laws and regulations; however, some legal / regulatory frameworks provide for the imposition of fines or penalties for noncompliance even though the noncompliance was inadvertent or unintentional and even though there was in place at the time systems and procedures designed to ensure compliance. Failure to comply with these and other regulations, and supervisory expectations related thereto, may result in fines, penalties, lawsuits, regulatory sanctions, reputation damage, or restrictions on our business. The Federal Reserve Board may require us to commit capital resources to support the Bank. Federal law requires that a holding company act as a source of financial and managerial strength to its subsidiary bank and to commit resources to support such subsidiary bank. Under the " source of strength " doctrine, the Federal Reserve Board may require a holding company to make capital injections into a troubled subsidiary bank and may charge the holding company with engaging in unsafe and unsound practices for failure to commit resources to a subsidiary bank. A capital injection may be required at times when the holding company may not have the resources to provide it and therefore may require the holding company to borrow the funds or raise capital. Any loans by a holding company to its subsidiary bank are subordinate in right of payment to deposits and to certain other indebtedness of such subsidiary bank. In the event of a holding company's bankruptcy, the bankruptcy trustee will assume any commitment by the holding company to a federal bank regulatory agency to maintain the capital of a subsidiary bank. Moreover, bankruptcy law provides that claims based on any such commitment will be entitled to a priority of payment over the claims of the institution's general unsecured creditors, including the holders of its note obligations. Thus, any borrowing that must be done by us to make a required capital injection becomes more difficult and expensive and could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We are subject to stringent capital requirements which may adversely impact return on equity, require additional capital raises, or limit the ability to pay dividends or repurchase shares. Federal regulations establish minimum capital requirements for insured depository institutions, including minimum risk- based capital and leverage ratios, and define " capital " for calculating these ratios. The minimum capital requirements are: (i) a common equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 4. 5 % ; (ii) a Tier 1 to risk- based assets capital ratio of 6 % ; (iii) a total capital ratio of 8 % ; and (iv) a Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4 % . The regulations also establish a " capital conservation buffer " of 2. 5 %, which if complied will result in the following

minimum ratios: (i) a common equity Tier 1 capital ratio of 7.0 % ; (ii) a Tier 1 to risk-based assets capital ratio of 8.5 % ; and (iii) a total capital ratio of 10.5 %. An institution will be subject to limitations on paying dividends, engaging in share repurchases and paying discretionary bonuses if its capital level falls below the capital conservation buffer amount. The application of these capital requirements could, among other things, require us to maintain higher capital resulting in lower returns on equity, and we may be required to obtain additional capital to comply or result in regulatory actions if we are unable to comply with such requirements.

Fee revenues from overdraft protection programs constitute a significant portion of our noninterest income and may be subject to increased supervisory scrutiny. Revenues derived from transaction fees associated with overdraft protection programs offered to our customers represent a significant portion of its noninterest income. In response to recent increased congressional and regulatory scrutiny, and ~~31~~ in anticipation of enhanced supervision and enforcement of overdraft protection practices in the future, certain banking organizations have begun to modify their overdraft protection programs, including by discontinuing the imposition of overdraft transaction fees. These competitive pressures, as well as any adoption by the Bank's regulators of new rules or supervisory guidance or more aggressive examination and enforcement policies in respect of banks' overdraft protection practices, could cause it to modify programs and practices in ways that may have a negative impact on revenue and our earnings.

32General Risk Factors Changes in accounting policies or in accounting standards could materially affect our results of operations, and financial condition. Accounting policies are fundamental to understanding our results of operations, and financial condition. Some of the accounting policies are critical because they require us to make difficult, subjective and complex judgments about matters that are inherently uncertain and because it is likely that materially different amounts would be reported under different conditions or using different assumptions. We may experience material losses if such estimates or assumptions underlying in our financial statements are incorrect. From time to time, the FASB and the SEC change the financial accounting and reporting standards or the interpretation of those standards that govern the preparation of our external financial statements. These changes could materially impact how we report our results of operations and financial condition. New or revised standards could also require retroactive application, which could result in the restatement of our prior period financial statements in material amounts. Internal controls may become ineffective in preventing or detecting material errors. We regularly review and update our internal controls, disclosure controls and procedures, and corporate governance policies and procedures. Any system of controls, however well designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the controls are met. Any failure or circumvention of our controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, and financial condition. We may be unable to attract and retain key personnel. Our success depends, in large part, on its ability to attract and retain key personnel. Competition for qualified personnel in the financial services industry can be intense and we may not be able to hire or retain the key personnel. In addition, the Bank's rural geographic marketplace, combined with relatively expensive real estate purchase prices in the many tourist communities we serve, create additional risks for the our ability to attract and retain key personnel. The unexpected loss of key personnel could have an adverse impact on our business because of their skills, knowledge of the markets in which we operate, years of industry experience and the difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement personnel. Future capital offerings may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources or, if our banking subsidiaries' capital ratios fall below required minimums, we could be forced to raise additional capital by making additional offerings of debt, common or preferred stock, trust preferred securities, and senior or subordinated notes. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt securities and shares of preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive distributions of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Additional equity offerings may dilute the holdings of our existing stockholders or reduce the market price of our common stock, or both. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings. Moreover, we cannot assure you that such capital will be available to us on acceptable terms or at all. Our inability to raise sufficient additional capital on acceptable terms when needed could adversely affect our businesses, financial condition and results of operations. The market price and trading volume of our common stock may be volatile. The market price of our common stock may be volatile. In addition, the trading volume in our common stock may fluctuate and cause significant price variations to occur. We cannot assure you that the market price of our common stock will not fluctuate or decline significantly in the future. Some of the factors that could negatively affect our share price or result in fluctuations in the price or trading volume of our common stock include: • quarterly variations in our operating results or the quality of our assets; • operating results that vary from the expectations of management, securities analysts and investors; • changes in expectations as to our future financial performance; • announcements of innovations, new products, strategic developments, significant contracts, acquisitions and other material events by us or our competitors; • the operating and securities price performance of other companies that investors believe are comparable to us; 33