

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JUNE 3, 2014

Tape recorded meeting

Present: Vice Chair Judy Colby, Pam Dunning, Chair Ed Polewarczyk, Jeff Slack and Interim Town Manager Don Gerrish

Absent: Tim Merry

6 p.m.

Public Meeting to discuss the Environmental Assessment Report for the Airport

Erv Deck, Airport Manager, explained the need for the Environmental Assessment report before the Master Plan can be approved. The EA addresses the impacts associated with the removal and lighting of existing obstructions to protected airspace proposed at Wiscasset Municipal Airport. The Master Plan is a 20-year plan for the airport. Approval of the Master Plan by the Town is necessary in order for the Town to receive federal grant money. The Master Plan addresses safety and capacity issues and long term growth. One of the safety issues is the obstruction caused by trees.

Greg Cohen, Senior Environmental Analyst for Stantec, the firm that prepared the Environmental Assessment report, said the draft dealt with potential safety issues, in this case the off-airport trees that are infringing on airspace, which had to be resolved before future development could take place. He presented a series of maps showing the existing conditions, full clearing of obstructions, and partial clearing and obstruction lighting. There are 61 acres of obstruction, 45 of which are on airport property. Easements will be necessary in order to remove trees on adjacent properties, one of which is the Chewonki Campground. Cohen said that in order to reduce impacts on the campground, some trees could be trimmed rather than removed; however, 20 camp sites would be affected by removal of the shade trees. He added that public comments would be added to the draft report and alternatives to minimize the effects were still being explored.

Ed Rancourt, Attorney Jim Hopkinson, Dale Skillin and Pam Brackett spoke in opposition to the plan for clearing of trees on Chewonki property and suggested off-setting the approach or considering other alternatives.

In response to questions from Ed Polewarczyk, Greg Cohen clarified several sections of the draft and will correct an inconsistency. The legal process for obtaining easements which would be required before any tree cutting could take place was explained. An easement on the Chewonki property would require approval of Chewonki before any tree cutting could take place.

Richard Doucette, FAA, said that further federal funding will not be forthcoming if the airspace is not cleared. He said public comments on the Environmental Assessment report will be accepted until July 7, 2014 and will be included in the final report which will be issued shortly thereafter.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ed Polewarczyk called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: May 27 and June 3, 2014

Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of May 27, 2014. Vote 4-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of June 3, 2014. Vote 4-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2014

Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2014. Vote 4-0-0.

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Announcement of Scholarship Recipient for Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship: The \$500 scholarship was awarded to Kristen Cavanaugh.

B. Announcement of Scholarship Recipient for General John and Mrs. Jeanette French Scholarship: The \$1000 scholarship was awarded to Nathan Austen.

C. Update from Maine Eastern Railroad on 2014 changes in season: Chuck Jenson, COO of Maine Eastern Railroad, announced the marketing plan aimed at bringing tourists to the Midcoast and the new schedule for the railroad. The railroad will coordinate its schedules of trips from Brunswick to Rockland with the Amtrak arrivals and departures at Brunswick on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Round trips from Wiscasset to Newcastle/Damariscotta and from Wiscasset to Bath will be offered as well as a special Lobster Festival train to Rockland. Service begins July 4 and will end on October 12. A shuttle bus to Boothbay from Wiscasset is also planned.

6. Appointments – none

7. Public Comment

Jeff Slack noted that this meeting was Ed Polewarczyk's last and thanked him for his work on the board. Judy Colby and Pam Dunning echoed his sentiments. Polewarczyk in turn thanked the members for their work.

Erv Deck thanked the board, department heads and Don Gerrish for their cooperation and Ed Polewarczyk for his leadership.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Airport Master Plan: Chairman Polewarczyk asked for public comment before the board took action on the Airport Master Plan.

Ken Boudin, Chair of the Airport Committee, said the master plan was the focus for the next 20 years and was required by the FAA before additional funding would be made. He said approval of the master plan did not constitute approval of cutting trees.

In response to questions from the board, Erv Deck said the Environmental Assessment report was not part of the Master Plan, adopting the Master Plan did not constitute approval to cut trees, and even if adopted, changes could be made in the plan. He added that Stantec had fulfilled its contract and there were no funds to look at further options, none of which had been found viable.

Judy Colby asked that the Environmental Assessment report be included in the Master Plan and expressed concern that alternatives were not included in the plan. Ed Polewarczyk questioned the rate of growth projections in the plan and asked whether the Master Plan was consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. He said he would like to see an agreement between the town and Chewonki before the Master Plan is approved. Jeff Slack said approval of the plan was just the next step in the process and that the airport layout could not be changed without select board approval.

After comments from individuals in the audience opposing the cutting of trees on the Chewonki property and citing the lack of alternatives addressed in the Master Plan, Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Master Plan. The motion failed on a 2-2 vote and will be brought back when five members are present.

9. Unfinished Business – none

10. New Business – none

11. Town Manager's Report

A. Approval of Agreement with Maine Department of Transportation for proposed improvements to Routes 1 and 27 intersection, pedestrian crossing and sidewalk: Don Gerrish outlined the improvements which include crosswalks and traffic lights at the intersection, which will be controlled by sensors. He said the state will install the LED lighting and sensors, and the town will be responsible for maintenance. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the agreement. Vote 4-0-0.**

B. Fourth of July Celebration: Gerrish said the celebration had been coordinated by the staff; the parade will take place at 10 a.m., a concert at the pier will run from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. with a break at 9 p.m. for the fireworks.

C. Sewer and Water bids: Bids for the Birch Point Road project were opened earlier in the day and are as follows:

Harold Warren	\$1,041,000
Harry Crooker	\$1,413,000

Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager and Buck Rines to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 4-0-0.

D. Town Manager Search: Don Gerrish said 22 resumés were received and will be considered by the new select board.

12. Adjournment

Pam Dunning moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.