

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
July 5, 2010

Present: Don Jones, Cindy Fischer, Lois Kwantz, Sean Rafter

Absent: Seaver Leslie

Guest: Ed Polewarczyk (newly elected selectman)

We moved to our agenda items since the minutes from June 7th were not yet ready.

Outlying Railroad Station: First up was a discussion of the purchase of Chip Huber's property on Birch Point Rd. Chip had made a presentation at our June meeting proposing that his property would be a good site for an outlying commuter railroad station and stating his willingness to offer to sell it to the town of Wiscasset for such a purpose. Our discussion focused on our belief that the building of an outlying commuter railroad station is something that Wiscasset should not entertain until such time as MDOT is ready to move forward with such a project. As a committee, we believe that any construction of a railroad station should begin with the in-town site on Railroad Ave.; this location has already had an engineering study done and is basically "shovel ready" if funds were to become available. Sean then made a motion that the Transportation Committee should make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to reject the offer. Cindy seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0 in favor.

ACOE Recommendation for the Bypass Route: The Army Corps of Engineers has notified MDOT that their choice for the LEDPA (least environmentally damaging practicable alternative) is the long bridge route across the Sheepscot River, the route known as N8c. We spent the rest of the evening discussing our dismay about this choice, especially since it went against the selection made by the Midcoast Bypass Task Force. While no one was happy with the choice of N2a as the possible route, the task force had come to a compromise for this route as the one that was the least objectionable to the majority. We are feeling much frustration and anger about the rejection of the region's choice after years of work. We are not sure that anything we might say would have any effect on the ACOE but Sean suggested that we should construct a letter expressing our feelings and opinion about their decision. We requested that Don write a draft letter for us to review and to amend as necessary. Sean made a motion for our letter as amended to be presented to the Board of Selectmen for their discussion and hopefully approval and signature with the request that this letter to be sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as the governor, our two senators and two representatives, and to Commissioner Cole (MDOT). Lois seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

We adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lois Kwantz, Secretary