

**Wiscasset Transportation Committee
December 6, 2010**

Present: Don Jones, Cindy Fischer, and Sean Rafter

Absent: Lois Kwantz, Seaver Leslie

Don opened the meeting at 7pm. The minutes of November 1, 2010 were read and approved. We discussed at length the current situation with the bypass since the startling announcement by the Army Corps of Engineers on November 30. Due to discovery of an Eagle's nest on Davis Island in the path of the proposed bypass, the Army Corps has rescinded their designation of bypass alternative N8c as the LEPA. This means that bypass alternative N8c cannot be built. MDOT is reconvening the Midcoast Bypass Task Force on December 15 for an open public meeting to discuss whether MDOT should resubmit alternative N2a, submit a different alternative, or drop the planned bypass altogether. Don will attend as a member of the Wiscasset delegation.

Sean said that if MDOT wants to reconsider previously dismissed bypass alternatives that Wiscasset should ask for reconsideration of southern route over Westport and the Van Orsdell bridge/tunnel proposal.

Don reported that Laurie had heard from USACE inquiring whether, since the LEDPA for N8c had been rescinded, Wiscasset still wished to receive the information requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Laurie told the Army Corps that Wiscasset still wished to review the information that had been requested. Don will make arrangements for the WTC members to review the information once it is received.

Discussion then turned to the continuing efforts of the organization ROAD to cancel any bypass in favor of other measures to speed traffic through Wiscasset village by changes to the existing road. The WTC still supports a bypass as the only effective long-term solution to traffic congestion in Wiscasset.

The committee will next meet on Monday January 3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Jones, Chairman