

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes March 15, 2004

Attending: Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Marguerite Rafter, Sean Rafter

Absent: Seaver Leslie

Guests: Ryan Thompson (WN), Esther LaCognata (consultant to the WCPC)

Don Jones called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. After reviewing the minutes from the February 16th meeting, it was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

We continued discussion of the road structures within the town of Wiscasset re: the collector roads. Don reported that there are 6.27 miles of minor collector roads; they include Rte. 144, the Birch Point "loop" Rd. (from 144 to Rte. 1) and the West Alna Rd. The question was raised as to whether "relocating" Rte. 144 for the airport work be considered by the state as part of their projects.

Chief Emmons has heard back from David Allen at MDOT re: the intersection at Lee St./Bradford Rd./Rte 1. MDOT does not intend to do anything at this intersection in order to realign it. However, Mr. Allen did agree to look into the possibility of a speed limit change on Rte. 1, ie. reducing the speed from 35mph to 25mph from the Wiscasset Town Office Building out to Holbrook Pond. He will look into it when he is in town this month.

Don assigned as "homework" for members of the committee to review pages 2-4 of the memorandum from the Office of Economic & Community Development sent to the board of selectmen from Andrew Gilmore. Don also handed out info re: the SHIP/BIG application sent to Kevin Rousseau; we talked about the application for transportation suggestions (no copy); we took a look at the referendum to be voted on; we have heard back from David Cole, commissioner of MDOT that at this time, the department has no intention of proposing a "cars only" concept for a bypass; there will be a meeting on March 29th with officials to discuss the pedestrian crossing over the railroad tracks to White's Island.

Esther Lacognata joined us to discuss the TC's part in the comprehensive plan process. She stated that the TC's job is to gather information; to factor in Wiscasset's place in traffic movement and to make recommendations to the whole comprehensive planning committee. The larger committee then makes recommendations for future land use plans and capital investment planning for the future of Wiscasset. The comprehensive plan is the culmination of all the individual studies and recommendations. Esther would like us to look at capital investment needed for our road structure for the next 15 years. She suggested using MDOT's road assessment system and that we should schedule repairs, etc. on a rotating basis. We need to look at roads, interchanges, traffic, pedestrian issues, etc. Our old comp plan was written prior to the guidelines which came out in 1992 as a result of the "Growth Management Act" passed in 1988. We need to identify problems and make more specific recommendations with actionable steps. The inventory of our road systems can come directly from MDOT.

Lois agreed to talk with Woody Freeman, road commissioner for Wiscasset, re: the recent history of road repairs, upgrades, etc. and to get his take on future needs - both immediate and further out, priorities for road work, etc.

The TC should be looking at parking issues, availability, linking railway stations, busses, etc. as means to get cars off of our roadways. Sean agreed to pull together parking information and airport info.

We agreed to bring our info back to the April 26th meeting at 7:00 PM in the LCEDO. We adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Submitted by Lois Kwantz, Secretary