

**Wiscasset Transportation Committee
Minutes for August 16, 2004**

Present: Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Marguerite Rafter

Guest: Jeff Hinderliter (town planner), Ryan Thompson (reporter)

Absent: Seaver Leslie, Sean Rafter

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM. Approval of the July minutes was postponed until the September meeting. Don reported that there had been no update about the petition for the reduction of the speed limit to 35 mph on the Bath Rd. to the Woolwich town line. The update re: the Quik Stop sidewalks and entrances is as follows: Dave Allen of MDOT advised that they have approved one 26' entrance to and one 26' exit from the Quik Stop on Rte. 27. The opening onto Hooper St. which is currently on MDOT property must be closed but, if the town approves, it is possible for there to be an entrance/exit onto Hooper St. further down, away from the corner. There was a question about whether 26' was larger or smaller than what currently exists. Jeff Hinderliter reported that he had met Jim Benedix who was gathering info in order to meet the requirements for MDOT. Other modifications would be up to the town to require. There will be "non-mountable" curbs to prevent people from driving up on the "sidewalks" between the openings. Once again the committee recommended making the "islands" between the openings into "real" 4' wide sidewalks as a continuation of the sidewalks from Rte. 1 down Gardiner Rd. The committee also had questions about how the Wiscasset Rte. 1 initiative (or interim corridor protection program) is proceeding.

Our next piece of business was with Jeff re: the TC's role in the comprehensive plan. Jeff presented two different drafts or frameworks for gathering together the information for the transportation piece of the comp plan. We need to work on policies, implementation and strategies. Draft #1 better reflects Jeff's approach. The various groups involved in the plan are trying to

1. develop goals - what to actually achieve, what to encourage;
2. do analysis and inventory - air, rail, water, vehicular, pedestrian traffic, etc.;
3. lay out policies and implementation - what would we like to see; how do we implement? by ordinance changes? by law changes?

Don and Jeff asked us all to do some thinking about these pieces and come with a list for the next meeting. Don offered the example of what we should do as follows:

Goal: to get through traffic out of the village

Analysis: 4 1/2 miles of Rte 1; it's currently the principal arterial; use congestion measurements supplied by MDOT from various studies, etc.

Policy/Strategy: build a by-pass; use full interchanges on Rtes. 27 & 218; maintain full capacity on Rte. 1

Don also suggested that we use Pg. 1 of the draft #2 example for the list of categories that we should be thinking about re: goals, strategy, and implementation actions.

In other business, Jeff reported that the Maine Eastern Railroad Co. would be interested in making Wiscasset a stop for the remainder of the season IF we could build a temporary platform. The TC expressed concerns about building anything without carefully considering the results of the study done for MDOT about the appropriate site for an in-town rail station. Jeff promised to take a look at the study before moving ahead with any plans.

After setting Monday, September 20 for our next meeting (in order to accommodate Jeff's schedule), we adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Lois Kwantz, Secretary