

## **Transportation Committee Meeting March 7, 2005**

**Present:** Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Seaver Leslie, Marguerite Rafter, Sean Rafter

The transportation committee opened its meeting at 7:05 PM. The last time that we had met officially was on November 8, 2004. (A point of information: The majority of the members of the TC **did** attend the regional Gateway 1 meeting held on December 9, 2004 at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle.) At the 11/8 meeting, we did a thorough review of Draft #2 of the transportation section for the comprehensive plan, which Jeff Hinderliter had sent to our committee. Don took what we had prepared on the 8th and presented it to the comprehensive plan committee on December 29, 2004. Jeff was not able to attend, so Don sent a copy of the draft with the changes and corrections to Jeff following the 12/29 meeting. At this point, there has been no action taken on either the transportation part of the plan nor has there much movement on the comprehensive plan as a whole. It does not appear that there is much hope of the plan being ready for a June town meeting. Don reported that Bob Faunce, a consultant for the town of Wiscasset as part of his overall duties as the Lincoln County planner, has told the comp plan committee that they/we, the town, need to have a consultant on board in order to complete the comprehensive plan. There seems to be some confusion and consternation over this suggestion since Esther Lacognata who had been our consultant through the process was let go in January.

Don reported that Gateway 1, Phase 1, is slowly moving along. There has been a bit of a hitch with the group, Friends of Mid-Coast Maine, inserting its desire to have the public involved heavily regarding any possible development of Sears Island. They are suggesting that they cannot "encourage" various towns, particularly those in that region, to sign on to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) without assurances from MDOT around this issue. MDOT is attempting to prepare a MOU for Searsport that will provide a compromise so that the whole process can move forward. The threshold for forward movement to happen is to have 15 of the 20 towns sign the Gateway 1 MOU. Kathy Fuller will be giving a presentation to our board of selectmen on March 29th with the hope that Wiscasset will sign on. Don also presented us with a DRAFT copy of Phase II for Gateway 1. It is basically an outline of the work that needs to be done next, most of it involving data collection.

The Bath Road Study is a separate issue involving just the Town of Wiscasset and MDOT. This study represents a good faith effort between the town and MDOT to allow development on the Route 1 corridor while we are still in the process of ironing out how to assess the various fees involved with development on and around that area. Don gave us a copy of the Bath Road Traffic and Land Use Management Study for our review. He pointed out that HTN is the consultant for both Gateway 1 as well as for the Bath Road Study. A brief review by this committee brought up some concerns, like adding the Lee

St./Bradford Rd. intersections to the list. There was also a question about whether the AM/PM peak periods to be studied during the summer were really the peak periods of traffic. Marguerite expressed concerns about impacts on the historic district. We decided to spend additional personal time studying this draft for further discussion.

Don brought us a proposal from Chief Emmons re: parking on Middle St. After some discussion about two sided parking, where and when on Middle St., the committee concurred with the amendments proposed by the chief for Article 3 in our town ordinances. However, we reached no consensus re: the elimination of parking on one side of North Middle and North Water Streets on a permanent basis. The committee disagreed with Chief Emmons re: the idea of asking MDOT to place signs at the intersection of Rte. 1/Bradford Rd./Lee St. prohibiting passing at said intersection. It was our feeling that this would be ineffective.

There being no further discussion, the committee set April 4, 2005 at 7 PM for its next meeting, same place. We adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Lois Kwantz, Secretary