

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
3 April 2006

Present: Don Jones, Cindy Fischer, Lois Kwantz, Seaver Leslie & Sean Rafter;
Absent: Jo Bryer

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM. After reviewing the minutes from the February 6, 2006 meeting, they were adopted as presented with a vote of 2 in favor and 3 abstentions due to absences at that meeting. In response to a question concerning the outcome of our suggestion regarding sledding on Tucker Hill, Don referred the members to paragraph 6 of the minutes of 2/06/06 for the update. We moved on to reviews and updates re: on-going transportation issues.

Gateway 1: Don reported that there have been no new meetings involving Wiscasset and the steering committee meeting is still several months away. The regional sub-group is to meet on April 19 at the municipal building in Newcastle on River Rd. Two people from each community will be attending; Don and Sean represent Wiscasset and several members of the committee suggested that we should encourage the town manager to attend also. Don reminded us of the Gateway 1 conference scheduled for May 3-4 at the Samoset. There is a \$20 fee for members of the committee. The evening of the 3rd consists of speeches; on Thursday, there will be a variety of workshop sessions from which attendees can choose. There have already been two steering committee meetings, which have defined how the committee is going to work, what policies and rules, etc. to put into place and so forth. The next meeting is in early June.

Bypass: At the first meeting of the task force, MDOT announced another postponement of the release of the EIS (environmental impact statement). Therefore the task force is limited in what it can do. The second task force meeting will most likely occur on May 10th at the WMS cafeteria at 7:00 PM. Officials presented a list of members of the task force and the "newest" map of routes for the bypass. They hope to have the EIS out as early as June to as late as November. There was some talk of shortcuts regarding the analysis of the impact on "historic structures". Since some bypass routes "nick" one or two corners of the historic district in Wiscasset, we questioned the wisdom of "shortcuts". There were also questions about the accuracy of the impact of tourist traffic since MDOT's origins/destination traffic survey was done in **late** August.

Bath Road Study: There is no news. Neither side seems interested in working out their differences. The sticking point for the town appears to be the lack of any ability to pin MDOT down re: the percentage of the town's versus the state's share of cost overruns. We suggested that perhaps Don could bring this issue up with Andrew Gilmore as a "talking point".

Hodge/Washington Sts. Intersection: Don reported that he had called MDOT, with Andrew's agreement, for a consultation regarding putting in a crosswalk at

the aforementioned intersection. Peter Coughlan and/or Steve Landry were going to look at it. There was some discussion about the need and wisdom of creating additional expense to look at a problem that has to do with specifically Wiscasset streets. Many on the committee felt that it was not necessary to get the state involved in this decision. Seaver made a motion to "have the town paint a diagonal crosswalk as a continuation of the sidewalk on Bath Rd. (Route 1) to meet at the northwest corner of the sidewalk on Hodge St." Sean seconded the motion and the committee voted unanimously in favor.

Comprehensive Plan: The draft of the plan is complete and the committee is beginning a series of public meetings open to any citizen for the purpose of reviewing the plan and offering input. The hearings are scheduled for Wednesday evenings: April 5th, 12th, 19th(possibly) and 26th. The final draft is supposed to be available by April 28th for inclusion on the warrant. The committee can continue to make edits to the plan up to within 14 days of the town meeting. The complete draft of the comprehensive plan is available on the town's web site – <http://www.wiscasset-me.gov/>.

Since there was no additional business, we scheduled our next meeting for Monday, June 5, 2006 at 7:00 PM. We voted to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lois Kwantz, Secretary