

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
5 June 2006

Present: Don Jones, Jo Bryer, Cindy Fischer, Lois Kwantz & Sean Rafter

Absent: Seaver Leslie

Chairman Don Jones called the meeting to order at 7:01. After reviewing the minutes from the April 3rd meeting and making a correction in the very last paragraph, changing "out" to "our", the minutes were accepted with four in favor and one abstention.

Gateway 1:

Don reported on the April 19th regional Gateway 1 meeting with the five towns in our region. It turned out to be more of an informational meeting to lay out the structure of the work to be done. People attended hoping to get some answers, but MDOT put off questions, rather reporting on:

a) a truck survey which yielded the fact that 41% of all truck traffic on US1 is in the midcoast serving local needs with the single largest kind being construction vehicles.

b) a spot speed study, which documented 13 areas with "problem speeding", one being at the Lincoln County courthouse curve.

c) a report on high crash locations - 2 are in Wiscasset with one at the intersection of Rte. 1 and Lee St., and the other on the segment of Rte 1 between Page Ave. and Birch Point Rd.

They also gave out maps comparing zoning with those of neighboring towns.

Don has a CD of the presentations at this April meeting.

Conference at the Samoset - May 3 & 4, 2006:

Sean Rafter, Don Jones & Cindy Fischer attended as well as other Wiscasset residents - Dan Thompson & Ann Leslie to name two. Colin Woodward presented the tale of the development of the Maine coast touching on the hows and whys of attitudes and perspectives re: development. Robin Alden from the Commission of Marine Resources presented an explanation about the hows and whys that created cooperation and the lobster zones along the Maine coast, holding this method up as a way to explore the Gateway 1 issue. Angus King was the third speaker on Wednesday evening. He spoke off the cuff but suggested that the solution to the traffic woes of Wiscasset might best be a tunnel to bypass the downtown, starting at Holbrook Pond and coming up on the other side of Sarah's Cafe. On Thursday there were a variety of workshops with lots of interesting information. Evan Richert did one on density - what is it? how do we look at it? what numbers are required in order to provide services, etc? There will be a second Gateway 1, Region 2 meeting on May 17th. Its purpose is to review the "attitude" survey and to present the results and the themes from the study. Sean expressed some surprise at the uniformity of concerns, desires, outlooks, etc. of the various communities from Brunswick to Stockton Springs. He commented on the Walmart opposition as an example but Cindy pointed out that

Wiscasset has not yet voted on that issue. The survey showed significant differences not between the five G1 regions, but between demographic groups based on level of education, length of residency, and age. New information that came out of the conference was that all 5 regions have now met at least once. It was announced that Evan Richert, former state planning director and now a professor at the Muskie School of Policy, has been hired by MDOT as a consultant. He will play a key role in the Gateway 1 discussions. Jo Bryer stated that she had seen surveying being done on Rte 1 north of Davis Island with the focus directed across the cove toward Wiscasset. She wondered whether this was part of a move toward determining a bypass route and whether Gateway 1 is really a PR marketing campaign to influence study implications.

Bypass Update:

We are still waiting for the EIS (environmental impact study) to be released. The Midcoast Bypass Task Force meeting in Edgecomb is scheduled to take place on June 21st.

Other Business:

- a) There is no progress on the Bath Rd. study. Andrew Gilmore was unable to be here
as he had planned in order to talk with us about this topic.
- b) Don presented us with a diagram that he had drawn up for possible crosswalks at the
Hodge/Washington/Bath Rd. intersection although probably nothing will be done
about it.
- c) The comprehensive plan continues to be reviewed, rehashed and rewritten with the
sections concerning goals, policies and land use receiving the most attention. There is
a map of the proposed land use zones in the town office hearing room. The next step
is to hold a number of informational meetings and then an open public hearing. The
plan will also be submitted to the state planning office for input from them. The vote
on the comprehensive plan is scheduled for November 13th. The final draft needs to
be done by mid-September and then NO further changes can be made. It is possible
that the public meeting may occur on June 26th.
- d) Don suggested that it would be a good idea to officially elect a chair and a secretary
annually. Since that has not been done for several years, he felt that now would be a
good time to do so. Cindy nominated Lois Kwantz for the position of secretary

and

Sean Rafter nominated Don Jones as chairman of the committee. Both nominations were seconded and the committee instructed the secretary to cast a single ballot for each position.

We adjourned at 8:40 PM after setting August 7th as the date for our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Lois Kwantz, Secretary