

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
September 11, 2006

Present: Cindy Fischer, Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, and Sean Rafter

Absent: Seaver Leslie

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. A review of the minutes from June 5, 2006 resulted in a revision to item #2 on the agenda, the conference at the Samoset. Regarding the differences noted by the survey we eliminated the sentence on line #17 beginning "One thing that....amongst the regions." and replaced it with "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." The minutes were then approved as revised, unanimously.

Bypass Report:

The appointed task force remains in existence but is at a standstill for the moment. They are still awaiting a draft EIS (environmental impact statement) in order to have a discussion. Frank Chiaravalloti will continue as the facilitator despite taking a new job; however, he has not rescheduled the task force meeting yet. Sean has found out from Maine Historic Preservation that they have given statements of adverse impact on various spots in Wiscasset including the "iron railroad bridge". He wondered how and why that is, and asked, "Wouldn't a road beside the bridge make it more accessible to public view?" Other spots included Sortwell Farm and basically Sean's property on Bradford Rd. Sean speculated that it could be that the information from Maine Historic Preservation could be delaying the completion of the EIS. Basically, N2h would impact the bridge and N2f would be a straight shot across and somewhat longer. Height of the crossing would be an issue for the Army Corps of Engineers. He also questioned how accurate are the "facts" in Edgecomb's response to MDOT.

Gateway 1:

Don reported that it has been a quiet summer. There were 2 meetings (June & July), of no new substance but mostly about the process so far. Uri Avin, a principal in the consulting company, HNTB, led the discussions about how the steering committee is to proceed. He questioned whether the steering committee wanted to put major hours into identifying the "driving forces" piece of the report or whether they would prefer to have the consultants develop the information to then present to the committee. The committee voted to do the study of the driving forces as well as evaluating criteria and constructing scenarios themselves.

Bath Road Study:

Lois questioned where the Bath Rd. study/plan stands. Don told us that the study has been supported by Kathy Fuller and others, but that the MDOT person who sets the fees (Dave Allen??) was opposed. He would prefer that the study fail but Kathy Fuller has indicated a willingness to go forward if the town is serious about

working toward an agreement. Don pointed out that the comprehensive plan **does** contain a reference to the Bath Rd. master plan.

Ordinance Changes:

The transportation committee unanimously recommends that the language proposed by the town committee and Chief Emmons re: parking on Middle St. be adopted by the ordinance committee. The vote was 4-0 to support this.

We adjourned at 8:50 PM after scheduling our next meeting for Monday, November 6, 2006.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lois Kwantz, Secretary