

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
September 10, 2007

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

Absent: Seaver Leslie

Guest: Art Faucher

The meeting began at 7:10 PM with Don Jones' introduction of Art Faucher who had come to update the TC on some of the items of interest to them. We skipped over the reading of the May 7 minutes until our next meeting. Don proposed that we should have an updated election for the officers of the committee. It was moved that Don should continue as the chair of the committee and Lois Kwantz as the secretary and the committee voted unanimously to maintain the status quo. The town manager, Art Faucher, then began his presentation for the evening.

Route 1 Paving: This is going on as we speak. As a result of Art's conversations with MDOT, they agreed to postpone paving Federal St. and to focus their attention on the condition of Route 1 from Bradford Rd. heading south to the town line. MDOT is applying a hot top with a mixture with liquid hot tack added in, a step that was left out in the previous paving job which resulted in such deterioration of the road surface that it could actually be shoveled off in places. There were five reported accidents on Route 1 this spring and summer due to drivers attempting to avoid the potholes. The paving project on Federal St. will be postponed in order to coordinate with an upgrade of the storm drainage system from Lincoln St. to Morton St. There should be MDOT funds available for some of the work but the town may end up with a shared cost for a some of it. Kevin, the owner of the octagon house on Federal St., is currently "interviewing" owners of homes on Federal St. to see what kinds of impact the poor storm drainage is having on their properties. Eventually, downtown Main St. will also need to be redone. This will include Federal funds and Art would like to coordinate this work with a "renewal" of the downtown area using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies to help us out.

Water Front Rehabilitation: Art asked for our support regarding the improvements on the waterfront. Art also asked for our support for his and the waterfront committee's efforts to apply for a grant from the Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) to make repairs on the working waterfront pier with the decking, the cross beams and a protective railing around the perimeter as the major focus. The TC so moved and voted 4-0 in favor to support the SHIP application for a rehab at the working waterfront pier.

Wiscasset Bypass: Carol Morris has notified the members of the bypass task force that the draft EIS will be available to them prior to the actual public comment period. There will probably be 3 meetings in Wiscasset - 1) for the community at large; 2) by invitation with the business people of the community;

and, 3) with focus on the senior citizens of the community. The meetings will be run by MDOT in order to get comment from the public regarding the various routes and the accuracy of data included in the EIS. Copies of the EIS will be available at the town office and the hope is that people will pick it up, study it and then come to the public comments meetings prepared with questions and comments. MDOT will also take public comments in any format - mail, email, phone, in person, etc. After the public comment period, the task force will then deliberate further.

Gateway 1: The funding for the first phase of Gateway 1 has been spent and the "team" has spent the summer writing a new application for funding for the next phase of Gateway 1. We expressed frustration about our belief that input from the public regarding creative ways to make the Gateway workable have basically been ignored at meetings that have been open to the public. The next steering committee (SC) meeting to approve the next 18 month part of the plan is scheduled for October 24th in Rockland. During our discussion, we as a committee dared to ask the question, "How realistic are the goals for Gateway 1 and is it really worth the money that is being spent on it?" We want to know why the various county planners are not able to facilitate this kind of discussion within each county affected. The committee instructed Don to bring this discussion to the steering committee meeting on the 24th.

Other Business:

- 1) Art expressed concern regarding the placement of the railroad platform at the waterfront. Don filled Art in on the railroad studies that had been done a number of years ago and the fact that the study committee for the town of Wiscasset had earmarked the area on Railroad Ave., west of the bridge, as the best spot for a railroad station. This is where Art would also like to see the train stopping. Don agreed to help Art to find a "sympathetic ear" in the railroad company to work on changing the location of the platform.
- 2) There is now a marking on the roadway at the foot of Tucker's Hill at the right onto Fore St. for a 25 MPH limit.
- 3) Don once again reiterated this committee's concern about the lack of a crosswalk at the Hodge/Washington St./ Route 1 intersection. Art will see what he can do about that.

There being no other business, we set Monday, November 5, 2007 for our next meeting. We adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Kwantz
Secretary