Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes Monday, Aug. 20, 2001

Present: Chairman Don Jones, Secretary Phil DiVece, Ken Cooper, David Brown, Joe Piccirillo, and Harbormaster Bill Sutter.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. in the hearing room of the municipal building. The minutes of the August 6 meeting were accepted as written.

On the recommendation of the harbormaster, the committee voted 4-1, Piccirillo dissenting, to recommend that the oldest 32' float be declared surplus. The committee further recommended that selectmen set a minimum bid of \$500.

The harbormaster reported that 12 fishermen were found to have pot buoys in the mooring area. Notices of violation have been sent to eleven of them, and one repeat offender received a court summons. All of the buoys have since been moved.

Wrapping up items of old business that had not been touched on by the harbormaster, the chairman mentioned the ongoing study by MDOT of a possible bypass route along the waterfront. Stepping back from uniformly negative comments made at the July meeting, several members said they would be interested in hearing more about the proposed route which includes the construction of a tunnel for motor vehicle traffic. The chairman also reported that contrary to the recommendations made last time by the committee, the selectmen had decided not to ask the Fees Committee to prepare the pumpout grant application

The committee discussed the planned public meeting on uses of the Creamery Pier and other waterfront facilities. The meeting, to be facilitated by Stafford Business Advisors, will be an exchange of information. The public will be updated on current development proposals, while the committee will hear from townspeople on their development preferences for the waterfront. The chairman will distribute the reports from the June and July 2000 public waterfront meetings, and will attempt to draft an agenda.

The committee decided that due to the Labor Day Holiday it would change its September meetings from the 1st and 3rd Mondays to the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The committee is considering holding the planned public informational meeting on either Thursday September 20 or Thursday September 27.

The committee voted 5-0 to recommend selectmen not issue or renew any waterfront of Creamery Pier vending permits until after the March 2002 town meeting.

After a brief discussion the committee voted 5-0 to table a request to hold a May 18, 2002 wedding reception on the Creamery Pier until after a policy is adopted for use of the pier.

The harbormaster noted every year he has told the selectmen that it is unsafe to allow swimming and diving from the town docks when there is boat traffic present. The committee took no action.

The secretary will look into arranging a group tour of the Mason Station's docking facilities on Birch Point. He will also try to arrange a tour of the harbor with a boat owner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25. The next meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, Sept 10 in the firehouse.