

**Wiscasset Waterfront Committee**

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes

Present: Susan, Rick, Frank, Jack, Margo, Dan. Guest: Forrest Faulkingham, Paul

Meeting called to order at 1834. Reviewed minutes from March meeting. Motion to accept, seconded and all vote to approve. Minutes accepted.

Forrest Faulkingham is present to discuss his charter boating business which includes kayaks. The selectman have agreed to waive the first year fee to encourage a kayaking business at the Rec Pier. We have acknowledged that "doing business" will include being on the river as well as at a booth. This enables a boating business to operate without a person on shore all the time. Forrest is going to apply to have his business at the rec pier this summer as a trial. He will guide kayaking trips and will also offer boating, fishing trips as interest allows. He is questioning signage and has been told by the state representative that Wiscasset has an ordinance against the DOT signs within town limits. We will look into this issue. He will have a sign across the top of his kayak trailer as well.

Dan Bradford gave the harbormaster's report. He attended the WYC executive meeting and discussed the possibility of a pump out station on the yacht club property. He felt it was met with quite a bit of resistance. Paul assures us it is being considered. We have a float with a holding tank in it and the equipment to establish a pump out station. The tank will be checked for integrity as it has not been used for at least 10 years. We can attach to the town sewer system if we find it is economically reasonable to do so. We felt it would make more sense to have a truck come to pump out the tank as needed until we see how much this is used. Dan explained that the DEP encourages pump out stations to prevent pollution of waters by boaters just dumping. We are in agreement that there would need to be an attendant to ensure proper use of the station, but it could be an on-call person.. It will also need 220 V power source for the pump.

We had discussed surveillance cameras at the waterfront. Dan explained that is a very expensive prospect and in reality most images are not clear enough to really be of use identifying anyone. He feels that a "police" presence is more effective at preventing vandalism. Most damage is done by groups getting out of hand and this can be diffused easily by a police presence just being there and talking to people. We could ask that police make more frequent swings down to the pier areas.

We need to consider safety at the waterfront floats. If someone should fall in it is difficult to get back up onto the floats. The yacht club is installing to pull down metal steps that will be at the ends of their floats. Dan is planning on building 2x4 ladder on the ends of the public floats. This would be a cost effective way to do it. We also heard that the yacht club will have a sit on kayak on their float as a rescue vessel. They already have life rings with ropes. We are planning on similar at the town floats

There is a question on the town vote this spring regarding selling the harbormaster boat and then buying a smaller boat. We all were disturbed by this idea. The current boat was donated to the town and it is an excellent vessel for rescue use if the need arises. A smaller vessel would not be useful for this. Also, Dan was able to untangle fishing gear with this boat and a smaller one would not be able to manage that as safely. The issue may be the \$1700 insurance bill but would need insurance on a smaller vessel and not sure what that would be. This current vessel is inboard and will outlast a smaller outboard motor vessel with much less maintenance. We are in agreement that we would like to keep the current boat.

It is being considered to change policy so the selectman would set all fees instead of waiting for town vote. This would include an overnight tie up fee.

Each committee member is to reread the current pier policies before the next

meeting and come up with ideas that would improve them so we wouldn't need to redo them every year.

Rick has worked on a map to be posted at the rec pier to promote travel into the village. He showed us a simple map with pictures of "points of interest" around the margins. We all liked this and he will do a mock up for the next meeting. Margo will work on a short paragraph to encourage visitors to walk into the village.

Our next meeting will be at the waterfront and we have permission to meet at the Yacht club.

Meeting adjourned at 2040.