

## **Transportation Committee Minutes September 22, 2003**

**Attending:** Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Marguerite Rafter & Sean Rafter

Chairman Don Jones called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. After a review of the August 20th minutes, Sean moved to adopt them as written; Don seconded; the vote was unanimous to accept. Sean then moved to adopt the August 4th minutes as amended; Don seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Don reported that he had presented the motion which had been adopted by the TC regarding the ad hoc committee's route to the board of selectmen at their meeting following our August 4th meeting. The selectmen took action by moving to recommend the ad hoc route to the Maine Department of Transportation for their consideration. Larry Cilley, Andrew Gilmore and Mike Blagdon have had two meetings with people from MDOT since then, but without much progress regarding the ad hoc route or anything else. MDOT did ask whether the ad hoc route - adjusted to start somewhere in the vicinity of Birch Point Road and to go out beyond the high school is what the town wants to see in a route. The selectmen have answered yes and so MDOT has agreed to proceed with an analysis of the town's proposed route. Don felt that one positive which has come from all this new discussion is that MDOT does seem to be seriously listening to the town leaders. Dale Doughty has said that he will get back to us (the town).

There has been another delay in the completion and presentation of the EIS (environmental impact study) regarding the existing routes. This delay moves the public hearing to sometime in Jan/Feb of 2004. Reasons for the postponement are:

- because they need time to analyze the new route proposal.
- because MDOT is terminating their contract with the engineering consulting company and intends to complete the writing of the EIS proposals "in house".
- because they want to write the EIS very clearly and plainly so that the public can understand it.

Lois Kwantz pointed out that she believed that it was not a "fair criticism" for people to say that the TC was "not listening to the people" when it voted on its motion regarding the ad hoc committee's route since only a very small, vocal group spoke out against the ad hoc route and there are many more voters who have not weighed in for or against. Don told us that Judy Flannagan had supported the TC's attempt to make a judgment about what is best for the town.

Don and Marguerite reported that they had done an initial presentation to the Comprehensive Planning Committee around transportation issues. There is much more discussion to follow and they will keep us posted. The next CPC meeting is on September 29, 2003. Marguerite also commented that, as part of the historical review sub committee, she had learned that the town of Wiscasset has more designated archaeological/historical sites than anyone else in the state of Maine.

A Gateway 1 Update: The project which is supposed to make plans for the future of the Route 1 corridor from Brunswick to Prospect is still very much in the pre-planning stages. The state is just beginning to interview 4 consulting firms; when they have hired, then things can get started. Members of the TC feel that one or two of us should be part of the Gateway 1 committee as well. We also have questions about how the proposed purpose of Gateway 1 reconciles with Wiscasset's desire to concentrate business development out on Route 1S. Wiscasset had already addressed many of the concerns/ideas like lighting, noise, parking, etc. in their own Wiscasset Gateway proposal developed 2-3 years ago, ideas which are now popping up in the state Gateway 1 concept.

Regarding the Dragon Cement proposal/possibility, the TC feels that there are many transportation issues that will need to be addressed if this project should become a reality, things like train/road/water traffic; increasing large truck traffic from Mason Station to get to Route 27, etc. There has been mention that Dragon would like to see the by-pass start at Birch Point Rd. Why? because of the increased truck traffic from there?

Don reported that Chief Emmons has brought to his attention a request from Steve Kornacki about the Bradford Rd./Route 1 intersection. Steve would like to see something done to make getting out of Bradford Rd. more safe.

The TC agreed that we should begin to seriously investigate viable "traffic congestion relief" solutions and that we should take a look at Wiscasset's Gateway Plan for ideas about Route 1 S. Our next meeting will be on October 20, 2003 at 7:00 PM in this space.

We voted to adjourn at 8:35 PM.

Submitted by Lois Kwantz, Secretary