

Transportation Committee Meeting
June 7, 2004

Present: Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Marguerite Rafter, Sean Rafter

Absent: Seaver Leslie

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM. It was moved by Marguerite Rafter and seconded by Lois Kwantz to attend the selectmen's meeting occurring at the town offices in preparation for the town meeting on Saturday, June 12. After brief discussion, the motion failed and we decided to stay on and do our own business.

We talked a bit about development out on Rte 1 South and about the state's involvement in determining access rights, etc. on Route 1. Included in the discussion were questions about impact fees, questions about the future of Gateway1, questions about the use of Gateway 1 money to purchase land at Sherman Lake, and questions about the development of the Ricky Grover property on the corner of Rte. 1/Birch Point Rd. We would like to speak with Andrew Gilmore re: the Wiscasset Route 1 Initiative which has been reported on in the newspapers but which is news to us as the TC; the committee agreed that we should invite Andrew to come to our next meeting.

After reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, Sean Rafter moved and Don Jones seconded to accept them as presented. Three voted in favor; Lois Kwantz abstained since she had been absent from the previous meeting.

There was discussion re: sidewalks and entrances at the Quik Stop. Andrew has said that there will be wider sidewalks running along Rte. 27. MDOT is also currently working with the business owners re: entrances/exits to make it a safer spot.

There is to be a meeting of the Gateway 1 Wiscasset Focus Group on Thursday, June 24 at 2:00 PM in the meeting room at the town offices. Kathy Fuller and Evan Richert along with HTNB (national consultants) are leading the focus group discussions to begin the corridor study. Don has sent a list of 24 names of people who might be part of this discussion to define traffic problems within the town of Wiscasset, particularly as they affect Rte. 1. This first step involves these interviews with all the communities along the Gateway 1 corridor; then they will compile a comparison of what different towns have said in an effort to figure out how and if the problems relate to each other.

Don asked our opinions re: the petitions that have appeared for reducing the speed limit on Rte 1 to 35 MPH and Jim Simonetti's latest petition to extend the bypass route to begin at the Woolwich line. A motion was made (remove: "????? a motion") that the transportation committee endorse the petition requesting the reduction of the speed limit on Rte.1 from 45 mph to 35 mph. Lois seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Don said that he would try to find out where the fine money goes for speeding violators - the town?, the state? Don also suggested that we members of the TC should get out to read the latest bypass petition which asks to begin the bypass at the Woolwich line, to follow the railroad tracks and then to connect to one of the two MDOT bypass routes.

The petition requests a county wide referendum and wants the LC commissioners to support the petition.

There was brief discussion on the status of the White's Island dilemma including whether the town still has any right of way across the island or if National Resources might eventually want to connect to the town from Mason Station via a "footbridge" across the island.

We then moved on to talk of the comprehensive plan. The transportation piece is scheduled probably for October. We are not sure who will be leading the rest of the work on the comprehensive plan but Jeff Hindliter is interested in working on the transportation part. Don suggested that we be thinking about the following questions: 1) where do we want to be 15 years out?; 2) where are we now?; and 3) how do we bridge those differences? One of the big concerns that the TC foresees is how to take care of traffic generated by the development of the Maine Yankee Tech Park as well as other development on that side of town including the growing population on Westport Island. Sean and Marguerite offered to work on proposals for secondary road connections on either side of Rte. 1. We all should return to our next meeting with ideas on where we want traffic to be and to flow 15 years out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM and we scheduled our next meeting for Monday, July 12th, same time, same place.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Kwantz