

**Transportation Committee Meeting
April 4, 2005**

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

Absent: Seaver Leslie

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM. Don reported that he would be at a meeting on Thursday, April 7th for discussion on the progress of the Gateway 1 project and that he would probably be updated re: the Sears Island issues. The committee reviewed the minutes for both 11/08/04 and 3/07/05. November's minutes passed with a vote of 3 in favor, 1 abstained (due to an absence at the meeting). The March minutes passed as amended, 4 in favor, 0 opposed. We added the following to paragraph 4, line 3, ["for Article 3 in our town ordinances **re: the concept of restricting parking. Although there was some discussion, there was no consensus re: eliminating parking on one side of northerly Middle St.** But the committee disagreed..."]

Re: Gateway 1: Don and Lois attended the selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, March 29th. Both Kathy Fuller and Dale Doughty from MDOT were present to provide the selectmen with the results of the regional session held in Newcastle to allow residents to express their concerns and hopes for further development of the Rte. 1 corridor. The goal for the selectmen's meeting was to encourage the board of selectmen to sign on to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Gateway 1 study. Don spoke, expressing the fact that the TC was solidly behind the study and recommended that the board sign on. In addition, there was discussion around the Bath Rd. Study - how it is different from the Gateway 1 MOU and how it relates. Dale Doughty updated the board on the status of the by-pass issue and had already offered several dates for a joint meeting between MDOT and the board. Don has offered to join in these discussions. Dale said that the EIS should be completed soon and then there will be the opportunity for public comment on the EIS draft. Afterwards, the draft will be revised, if necessary, and then sent on to the Feds. After some discussion, the board of selectmen decided to hold off signing the Gateway 1 MOU and Mike Blagdon asked for members of the TC to attend the April 12th selectmen's meeting.

It was brought to our attention that there has been a subdivision proposed for Clark's Point. Will it be in the "pathway" of one of the proposed by-pass routes? Marguerite also asked whether, now that the Augusta bypass is completed, there will be a change in the signs on Rte. 295, eliminating the term, "coastal" for Rte. 1? Will there be the use of changeable signs to warn travelers of traffic tie-ups in Wiscasset?

Re: the Bath Road study, we posed a series of questions without answers, such as - has there been any further discussion of the implementation of road improvements? What about TIF's? What happens if the selectmen do not agree to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), especially since there are already businesses that have contributed to the fund for road improvements? Marguerite once again stressed that we need to be sure to keep ever present in the minds of MDOT the fact that from Holbrook Pond to the river is a registered historic district. This designation is an important weapon to discourage inappropriate "corrections" to Rte. 1.

Re: the Comprehensive Plan, Don reported that there has been NO action since December. There has been no acknowledgement of proposed changes, no posting on the town's web site of the completed chapters. It will be probably another year before the comp plan is ready to present to the town for approval. Without a plan, the town and the planning board have "no teeth" to use against developers who might propose things that the town would not like to see happening. Do our selectmen feel that the comp plan is important?

Thinking ahead to summer, as the TC, we might look toward offering suggestions to help alleviate traffic and parking problems, to improve mobility, to coordinate railroad trip and boat schedules, etc. We also discussed the proposed changes in the Shoreland/Marine Overlay District zoning and how important the April 27th town meeting is for the future of Wiscasset. Sean made a motion, Don seconded it and the TC passed the following motion by a 4-0 vote - "The Transportation Committee supports the adoption of the proposed Shoreland II/Marine Overlay District Ordinance in order to allow the Point East project to move forward and the committee urges all Wiscasset residents to attend the special town meeting on April 27, 2005."

We set May 2, 2005 at 7:00 PM for our next meeting, same place. We adjourned at 8:33

PM.

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by Lois Kwantz,