

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes

Monday September 18, 2000

Present: Donald Jones, Chairman, David Brown, D. Kenniston Cooper, Mark Damon, William Morison, Secretary, and William Sutter, Harbormaster

Absent: None

Jones suggested we consider asking the Selectmen to appoint the Harbormaster to the committee as a voting member. After full discussion, there were sufficient reasons not to do so, and the Harbormaster concurred. He felt he was too close to the various problems at the waterfront, and preferred to remain in an advisory role.

The main agenda item was continued discussion of the proposed mast and boom for fishermen. The matter of insurance was considered and it was felt that the town's blanket policy would cover this as well. When asked, Dan Thompson suggested we contact the Larrabee Agency, and Jones will do so.

The location of the installation was discussed. The possibility of the Maine Yankee site becoming available and the mast and boom placed there was brought up, and decided that the only location we now can work with is the present pier. A detailed discussion established the center point of the mast being such that the boom could swing in a 180-degree arc from unloading a truck on the pier to reaching the vessel(s) at the floats. The Harbormaster noted that we had designated certain floats for the fishermen's own use, and that the mast and boom was a critical part of the working waterfront. The mast and boom will be paced at the southeast corner of the main pier.

Next the discussion moved to the design process. Damon said that he had had asked Alna marine fabricator Kevin Verney to prepare a proposed design and estimated cost which he hoped to receive by the next meeting. Damon felt that a Verney cost estimate would likely represent a maximum cost, and agreed the selectmen would likely take bids if they decide to proceed with the project.

After further discussion the committee agreed that it should focus on design criteria rather than design process. The following design criteria were agreed to:

- Maximum working load 600lbs – the design load would likely be three times the working load.
- Pressure relief valve to limit the amount that a user could attempt to lift.
- To be constructed of painted steel to a weatherproof standard.
- Electric powered hydraulic winch (make and model to be specified).
- Operating switch to be in a weatherproof locked box.
- Eyebolt to secure the cable to when not in use.

In addition Damon agreed to survey the prospective fishermen users to establish the following additional design criteria:

- The exact location in the southwest corner (in feet and inches) for the pivot point.
- The service area of the boom (arc and radius).
- The working height over the main pier.
- The height of the boom connection to the mast.
- The lifting speed (winch speed).

It was felt that the installation would be most usable if the primary users helped decide these last five design criteria.

The discussion moved on to fees. The committee agreed to recommend a single \$200 annual fee for use of the designated commercial fishing floats, the moored float for gear, and the mast and boom. It further agreed to recommend an annual fee of \$50 for use of the designated floats and moored float for those users who choose not to use the mast and boom. The committee agreed not to make a fee recommendation at this time for one time or occasional users, preferring to leave this possibility to the discretion of the selectmen.

The committee agreed to discuss further the possibility of fees for oil dealers, bait suppliers, lobster buyers, commercial boat launchers, and others generating a profit from the use of the facility.

In other business, the Harbormaster suggested that the committee prepare any proposed changes to the ordinances soon so that they can be presented to the selectmen by early December. He also felt that since all waterfront fees were placed in a dedicated account, there needed to be an article on the Town Meeting warrant authorizing the selectmen to expend these dedicated waterfront monies in the same way that the Town Meeting authorizes the expenditure of snowmobile fees and excise tax receipts.

Cooper proposed that the committee meet at the waterfront to familiarize ourselves with the current arrangement and condition of facilities. It was decided to discuss this further at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next meeting will be in the municipal hearing room on Monday October 2 at 7pm.

W K Morison, Secretary.