

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes

Monday June 18, 2001

Present: Donald Jones, David Brown, and Joseph Piccirillo

Absent: Phil DiVece, Ken Cooper, Harbormaster Bill Sutter

Guests: Deb Pendleton, John Meo

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. A quorum was present. The minutes of June 4 were approved without change. There was no report from the harbormaster.

Chairman Jones reported on his meeting June 6 with Ford Reiche of Safe Handling, Inc., MDOT staff, and other representatives from Wiscasset concerning plans for a rail to barge intermodal cargo port at Mason Station in Wiscasset. He said that Safe Handling had made an offer to FPL for the Mason Station site, and that the project appeared promising for Wiscasset.

Jones also informed the members of recently publicized plans to transmit electric power from Maine and the Maritimes to southern New England, New York, and the Mid-Atlantic States via undersea direct current cables. Maine Yankee is proposed as the site of one cable terminus and an alternating current/direct current converter. The concept is to make surplus summer power in the Maine and Canada available to eastern population centers while avoiding opposition to land-based transmission wires.

Jones reviewed his inquiries into parliamentary procedures including his conversation with Maine Municipal Association regarding the issue of abstention. By a vote of 3,0 the committee approved a Waterfront Committee policy that abstentions not be allowed other than when required due to conflict of interest or not having heard all the testimony. It was also decided not to stop requiring seconds on motions, although Robert's Rules makes seconding optional in small committees. Jones related that MMA said that Maine court opinions have held that actions of boards and committees created by law require a majority vote of the entire body not just a majority of those present and voting.

The committee discussed the problem of old unclaimed lobster traps being left on town piers and floats. No action was taken pending further discussion with the harbormaster.

The committee reviewed Dave Kinney's May 25 report on the condition of waterfront facilities. By a vote of 3,0 the committee strongly recommends that, except for adding new railings, all of Kinney's recommendations be implemented as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on Monday July 2, 2001 in the map room at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted
Donald Jones, Chairman