

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes
Monday, June 17, 2002

Present: Chairman Don Jones, Greg Hammond, Joe Piccirillo, and Harbormaster Bill Sutter.

Absent: None

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the firehouse. There was a quorum. The minutes of June 3 were approved with out change.

The harbormaster agreed to report on individual agenda items as they came up. The first item was on the definition of a majority vote. Don reported his conversation with a staff attorney from the Maine Municipal Association. MMA confirmed that Wiscasset's ordinance providing for the use of Robert's Rules of Order superseded established state law that calls for a majority of the total membership of a town committee. Under Roberts Rules of Order, a majority of those present and voting as long as there is a quorum present is sufficient for a legal decision.

Don reported on his conversation with Colonel Joe Fessenden, head of the Marine Warden Service, about the problem of abandoned lobster pots on the town floats. Col. Fessenden does not want his officers spending time trying to track down owners of pots abandoned on the Wiscasset docks. He also agrees that it is not Wiscasset's responsibility to track down the owners. He recommended that when the town takes possession of lobster pots that are blocking it's public facilities, that such pots not be stored but immediately disposed of to prevent them from falling illegally back into private hands. Don reported that he had informed both Bill Sutter and Woody Freeman. Bill confirmed that town policy would be to collect abandoned traps from the top of the Main Pier weekly and dispose of them immediately regardless of the condition of the pots.

The next topic was worm cars. Don noted that in the last couple of weeks he had noticed fewer empty worm cars left illegally on top of the floats. Bill mentioned that all worm car permit holders had received a letter from him reminding them of the rules and that permit renewal fees were due by July 31. Bill also mentioned that he had removed ten worm cars lacking valid permit numbers from the floats and placed them on top of the Main Pier, from where they had been hauled away for disposal by Woody Freeman. The committee decided to monitor worm car compliance for the rest of the summer before deciding whether to recommend any changes in the town ordinances with respect to worm cars.

Don reported to the committee that the town had been approved for a \$30,000 Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) grant to replace fender

pilings around the Main Pier and boardwalk, and to replace the oldest wooden gangway with an aluminum one. The committee hoped the town manager would get the work under way as soon as possible. Bill expressed concern that the terms of the grant not restrict the ability of the town to charge waterfront use fees.

Bill presented the engineering design for a pier hoist that had been prepared for the town by Mr. Wood of Manchester Maine. The hoist will be built by Bryan Buck of Wiscasset. Woody will replace the Main Pier decking this week under where the hoist will be placed. The hoist should be installed within a few weeks.

A Creamery Pier vendor application from Frank Sprague of Lunchables had been received the afternoon before the meeting, but Mr. Sprague was not notified of the meeting, and the chairman had not been able to reach him by telephone to invite him to the meeting. Since committee members had questions unanswered by the applicant on the form, the committee tabled action on the application until the next meeting when the applicant can be present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm. **The next meeting will be in the firehouse on Monday July 1 at 7pm.**