

Transportation Committee Meeting
June 6, 2005

Present: Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Marguerite Rafter & Sean Rafter
Absent: Seaver Leslie

Our meeting began at 7:08PM. The reading of the May minutes was postponed until the July meeting.

Under old business Item #2, Don reported that there is no "real" additional movement on the bypass. Dale Doughty says the new consultant is to complete the rewrite of the EIS by the end of the year. Public comment should occur in early 2006. There has been no meeting between the board of selectmen and MDOT because Wiscasset has not responded to any of the proposed dates for the meeting.

Concerning Item #3, the Bath Road Traffic/Land Use Management study, Kathy Fuller is discouraged with the lack of movement from the Wiscasset board around this proposal. We are wondering why the hold up. The TC commented several months ago on the draft for the study and sent along those comments to the board.

Regarding Item # 4, Gateway 1, there was a meeting in May of an "interim steering committee" to round out the specs for phase 2 of the Gateway 1 project. Kathy Fuller is the overall head of the project while Carol Morris from Garrard consultants is to organize the grass roots of the communities. They have or are sending a letter to all the selectboards asking them to create a response panel. Bob Faunce is working with the towns in Lincoln County as a "staff" person. We wondered what his thoughts are re: a bypass for Wiscasset. Don also mentioned that there is work happening at the intersection of Rtes. 27/1 in Edgecomb. Don is hopeful that the TRP (??) will be more of a "town committee". There are 21 "member" towns to be represented plus 5 additional members representing "special interest" groups. The final report for phase 1 of Gateway 1 should be available soon. Once again, we agreed that the TC should certainly make up the base of the TRP (??) for Wiscasset.

Don informed us that he had passed along his concerns to the town re: the painting of crosswalks at dangerous intersections. He specifically mentioned creating clear crosswalks at the intersection of Rte. 1/Hodge St./Washington St. Right now there is nothing there and a pedestrian is attempting to cross over a large expanse where three streets come together without any clear directions about how to do so safely. Sean Rafter made a motion that a crosswalk treatment at the intersections of Rte. 1, Hodge St. and Washington St. be recommended to the selectmen. Lois seconded and the vote passed, 4-0. Marguerite Rafter moved to recommend to the selectmen that when the crosswalks are painted, they should be painted a yellow field with a white border , if this is not cost prohibitive. Sean seconded the motion which passed, 4-0.

The committee wondered what the status re: railway transportation, stations, etc. was. Don Alexander has indicated that no one knows of any actual movement around passenger service other than the fact that there will once again be an excursion train for the tourist season which will use the old "platform area" on the dock near the public restrooms. We acknowledged the fact the future of rail service in the Midcoast area is tied to the future of Amtrak into Portland. We learned that the town has been granted a right of public crossing over to White's Island BUT there are conditions for this use such as lights, crossing bars, etc. which the town would have to pay to have installed.

Sean reported that the airport is "going great". They have already gone beyond the scope of the 15 year plan in only 5 years.

The committee adjourned for the evening at 8:30 PM. Since the first Monday in July is actually July 4th, Don listed on the agenda the date of Monday, July 11th for our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Kwantz, Secretary