

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes

Monday August 28, 2000

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

Absent: William Morison, Secretary

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:10pm. A quorum existed. The minutes of August 14 were approved without change.

The Harbormaster reported that the Selectmen August 22 on a 2-1 vote approved the Waterfront Committee's recommendation to reserve floats 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20 for the use of commercial fishermen, and limit their use of floats 1 through 8. He said that appropriate signs were already up and the fronts of the reserved floats painted yellow.

The Committee discussed what to do about the floating tree tied to a mooring in the harbor. The Harbormaster explained that another floating tree had been towed up river to Wiscasset Harbor by the Coast Guard last week. Ken Cooper explained that the Road Commissioner had been notified in advance, and the tree had been hauled up a launching ramp, sawn up, and disposed of at town expense. Mark Damon said that such floating dangers to navigation must be removed for safety reasons, and recommended that the town likewise dispose of the currently moored tree. The chairman questioned whether the town should shoulder the expense of removing all such floating obstructions, since other towns share the Sheepscot and there was no evidence it had originated in Wiscasset. Damon countered that if left or "encouraged" to continue down the river such a tree would certainly snag many pot buoys. It was pointed out that Article IV, section 4.4 charges the Harbormaster to remove any dangers to navigation in Wiscasset tidal waters. Damon offered to haul the moored tree to the launch ramp at a convenient time later this fall if the highway crew would dispose of it. The committee agreed.

Chris Hall addressed the Committee on behalf of Stafford Associates. He explained what Stafford would be doing during the fall months, mentioning a September questionnaire, and a series of as many as eight public meetings. A productive discussion of waterfront issues followed. Hall asked to address the committee again in a few weeks.

The Committee resumed its discussion from the prior meeting about installing a mast and boom on Memorial Pier at town expense, which would be reimbursed through user permit fees. It was agreed that a complete proposal should be made to the Selectmen before December, and would need to cover issues such as insurance, location, the design process, whether single or multiple fee levels, operator responsibilities and consequences for

irresponsibility. Mark Damon proposed an annual fee of \$200 for use of the boom, and estimated that 15 fishermen would almost certainly participate. He further proposed a dock usage fee of \$50 for other commercial fishermen who chose not to use the boom. He also suggested a day use fee for one-time boom users.

The committee decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting. It was also decided to meet twice a month at least through the fall. The committee will meet on the first and third Monday of the month to avoid conflict with the Planning Board. Due to the Labor Day holiday the next meeting will be Monday September 18 at 7pm in the municipal hearing room. Subsequent meetings will occur on October 2 and October 16 in the hearing room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.