

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes

Monday December 4, 2000

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

Absent: Mark Damon, William Morison

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. A quorum was present. The minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved without change.

The chairman reported that the November 20 meeting had been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. He further reported that Mark Damon had called him to say that he would not attend tonight's meeting, and was going to resign because of a job change. Member Bill Morison had also told the chairman that he intended to resign. **The members expressed hope that the selectmen would fill the two vacant positions as soon as possible.**

Harbormaster Sutter began his report. He stated that the Ferry Landing float was little used during the winter months, and he recommended that it be hauled out for the winter to avoid costly damage. Cooper agreed reminding the committee of the high repair costs incurred by leaving the float in the water during the last two winters, and the fact that in his opinion there was no winter use of that float. Cooper moved, **The Waterfront Committee recommends that the Ferry Landing float be removed from the water annually from Dec15 to April 15.** Brown seconded and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Sutter reported that the three 32-foot floats were in various stages of deterioration, and that the one moored for use as the fishermen's gear float was past its useful life. Cooper motioned, **The Waterfront Committee recommends that the fisherman's gear float be retired and disposed of at the selectmen's discretion.** Brown seconded and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Sutter suggested that float materials previously purchased by the town and on hand at the former recycling building could be used to build new floats to replace the fishermen's float and the other deteriorating 32 footers. Jones motioned, **The Waterfront Committee recommends that the previously purchased float materials be used to construct three new 20-foot floats that would be interchangeable with the existing 20-foot floats.** Cooper seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Sutter reported that he cooperated well with the Road Commissioner in deciding which floats to haul each winter, but desired the committee's endorsement of the policy of removing as many floats as possible each winter to lengthen their useful life as well as to enable annual maintenance. Jones motioned, **The Waterfront Committee recommends that as many floats at the waterfront park as possible be removed from the water during the**

winter months at the discretion of the Harbormaster. Cooper seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Sutter then gave his assessment of the essential waterfront maintenance projects that need to be done during the next year. He identified the following four projects:

1. Rebuild the walkway between the two piers at the waterfront park (by the flagpole).
2. Lower, refurbish, and restep the flagpole.
3. Replace the fender pilings on Memorial Pier.
4. Replace the deteriorating wooden (1976) ramp on the upstream side of Memorial Pier.

Cooper motioned, **The Waterfront Committee recommends that these four items be budgeted in the year 2001.** Jones seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion ensued as to whether the committee should recommend specific additional revenue sources. Sutter suggested the committee prepare a waterfront budget including estimated revenues and expenses such as toilet maintenance, replacing planks, renewing antiskid surfaces on the ramps, and the cost of removing floating obstructions Cooper reported that two trees were removed from the water and disposed of by the Highway crew at a cost of about \$1500 each. **No decision on tackling a waterfront budget was made pending further input from the selectmen.**

Sutter reminded the committee that it had requested from the town engineer about a year ago a structural assessment of waterfront facilities, but that such a report has not been presented. He noted that the Memorial Pier decking had been refurbished, and that the committee has already addressed the obvious need to replace the walkway even without a structural assessment, but that at a minimum a structural assessment of the Pedestrian Pier was urgently needed. Jones motioned, **The structural assessment of the waterfront facilities requested about a year ago still not having been done, the Waterfront Committee renews its request for a structural assessment at least with respect to the Pedestrian Pier.** Cooper seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Sutter alerted the committee to the very real possibility of attack by teredo worms on wooden structures in the Sheepscot, because they have already appeared in the Damariscotta River. Repairs and probable replacement of the town's wooden harbor facilities could be very costly. No preventative measures seem possible.

Sutter's final discussion item concerned a number of changes he would recommend to the Port and Harbor ordinance. After discussing a number of these changes, it was agreed that the Harbormaster would give a markup of his

proposed changes to the chairman who would prepare them by word processor for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

Audience member Dan Thompson reminded the committee members that Stafford Associates would be presenting their report to the selectmen on Tuesday December 5. He urged all members to attend because it was his understanding that the Stafford report would highlight the importance of the waterfront to future economic development.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm. The next meeting will be on Monday January 8, 2001 in the map room at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted
Donald Jones, Chairman