

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes
Monday, April 23, 2001

Present: Committee members, Chairman Don Jones; Phil DiVece, secretary; Ken Cooper, David Brown, Joe Piccirillo and Harbormaster Bill Sutter.

Guests: In attendance were two vendors, Deb Pendleton and Frank Sprague, who operate seasonal businesses on the deck of the town-owned Creamery Park. Also present were Judy Foss, a representative of Stafford Associates and Paula Gibbs, a reporter with the Wiscasset Newspaper.

Absent: Bob Stanley of Tidewater Treks had requested to be on the agenda but was not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. The minutes of the April 9 meeting were approved without change.

Harbormaster Bill Sutter reported the town had received about \$2,500 in payments for mooring fees. Additional mooring fee payments are anticipated. Sutter also updated the committee on the status of the town's floats recommending that the two oldest ones and a ramp be declared as surplus and sold. He noted both floats are 27 years old and will require some major maintenance work should the town want to keep them. Following a brief discussion, it was moved, and seconded, to recommend to the board of selectmen that the floats and ramp be declared as surplus and put out to bid to be sold as is at their location; passed 5-0.

Following a discussion on the planned mast and boom Installation it was moved, and seconded, that the committee request the board of selectmen to solicit bids for the installation of the mast and boom from Kevin Verney and Ken Boudin using the specifications prepared by the waterfront committee and included with the Oct. 16, 2000 minutes; passed unanimously.

The harbormaster recommended the town hire one fulltime person or two part-time ones to work as a waterfront attendant at the town landing. The attendant would be responsible for collecting launching fees and overnight boating tie-up fees. The recommendation will be discussed at the committee's May meeting.

The waterfront committee reconsidered its decision to recommend the dismantling of the former railroad ticket booth and instead recommend to selectmen that this room be used as an office for the harbormaster and waterfront attendant. A motion to this effect was passed unanimously with the stipulation the use of this room be confined to waterfront use and that any future railroad ticketing be done at a location away from the waterfront.

It was reported that the Boating Infrastructure Grant which the town had

applied for had been denied by the state.

Frank Sprague operator of Lunchables, a food vender at the Creamery Park told the committee he was sorry to hear there would be no excursion train service this summer due to construction on the line. "It absolutely draws business to the town," he said. Sprague said he wanted to have a portable toilet placed near his food stand on the state right-of-way. He was advised before doing so he would need permission from MDOT. Committee member Ken Cooper asked Sprague if he felt the rent the town was charging him was adequate. Sprague acknowledged it was a very reasonable rate. From there the discussion shifted to whether an overall policy was needed for the Creamery Park. Chairman Don Jones suggesting one option might be to auction off vender space on the wharf. It was agreed before any policy were drafted the committee would first seek input from residents.

A letter from Chewonki Foundation objecting to the new mooring fees was read by the committee secretary. Lee Huston, Chewonki Waterfront Manager noted their mooring rates increased from \$400 to \$1,600 for eight moorings. The harbormaster noted Chewonki officials were notified of the ordinance changes when they received their renewal notice. No objections were raised to the new fee structure at the March Town Meeting when the ordinance was passed. Because the committee has no authority to alter the fee structure no action was taken. The chairman will prepare a reply to Mr. Huston's letter.

The committee voted 3-0-1, Cooper abstaining to have the sewage pump-out unit installed at the waterfront on the float as recommended by the harbormaster. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03. The next meeting of the waterfront committee will be on Monday, May 7.