

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes
Monday, June 4, 2001

Present: Chairman Don Jones, Secretary Phil DiVece, David Brown, Joe Piccirillo, Ken Cooper, and Harbormaster Bill Sutter.

Guests: Judy Foss of Stafford Associates; Frank Sprague and Deb Pendleton, owners of seasonal businesses at the Creamery Pier; John Meo from the Wiscasset Newspaper; Bill Coombs and an associate from Village Therapeutic Massage of Middle Street.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. in the hearing room. Minutes of the May 21 meeting were accepted as written.

Harbormaster's Report: The deadline for renewal of mooring permits is nearing. Chewonki Foundation has not sent in their renewal fees for their eight moorings. Chewonki Foundation had objected to the increase in mooring fees approved by voters in March. Sutter said he hadn't heard from three other mooring permit holders.

Sutter said the fee stickers for commercial fishermen are ready and will be issued. The sticker fees are: \$50 for use of the wharf; \$200 for use of the wharf and mast and boom.

The committee authorized the harbormaster to post signs at the waterfront stating the town's policy on overnight docking of watercraft. The sign will read: Overnight tie-up permitted 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. Fee \$1 per foot.

Stafford Associates Report: Judy Foss noted she had met with two separate parties interested in commercial development of the waterfront. One party is interested in the possible construction of a marina on the village waterfront. A second group is exploring a "rail-to-barge" enterprise to be based at the Mason Station on Birch Point. She hopes to have both parties present at a public information meeting tentatively planned for mid-August.

Vender request: After hearing a proposal from Bill Combs of Village Therapeutic Massage of Middle Street, the committee recommended the board of selectmen grant him seasonal vender's permit to operate a chair massage service on a 10' by 10-foot space on the Creamery Pier for a fee not less than \$100. The addition of the massage service brings the number of venders on the pier to four. The initial vote was 3-1-1, with Jones, Di Vece and Brown voting in the affirmative, Piccirillo dissenting and Cooper abstaining. Jones asked Cooper for an explanation why he abstained. Cooper said it was his prerogative. Jones explained a member could only abstain for two reasons: one a conflict of interest; or being absent when testimony was given. He asked Cooper if there was a conflict of interest. Cooper said he was the one who had to clean up the waterfront. Jones said that was not a conflict of interest, and directed that the vote in be entered into the minutes as 3 in favor and two opposed. Cooper objected and left the meeting in protest.

Combs was told he still needed to get permit approval from selectmen. Coombs indicated he intended to seek the permit the following night, and the secretary reminded

Jones to notify selectmen before the their meeting that the committee had recommended the permit's approval.

Other business: Following a brief discussion with Pendleton, the committee took no action on the issue of movable accessories, associated with venders on the Creamery Pier. Pendleton had asked whether she could place a postcard stand and chairs outside her building.

Mast and Boom: A bid price of \$12,500 for construction and installation of the mast and boom was submitted by Machinery Service Co. Inc. of Wiscasset. The board of selectmen rejected the bid on May 29. After discussion with the harbormaster the committee agreed to have Sutter meet with commercial fishermen in an attempt to put forth an alternative proposal. This may include the construction of a smaller mast and boom, or possibly an increase in the user fee. "Fishermen have a chance to be pro-active on this if they choose to get involved," Sutter said. The committee agreed with the harbormaster's recommendation and left the responsibility of contacting area fishermen with him. He will report back to the committee at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30. **The next meeting will be at 7 p.m., June 18.**