

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes
Monday, Nov. 19, 2001

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

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the firehouse. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

The chairman noted that the first meeting of the Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday Dec.13 at 7pm in the hearing room. He encouraged all committee members to attend.

The chairman said he had been in touch with Stafford Associates regarding future use of Maine Yankee's docking facility, also known as the Bailey Point Boating Club, which is located on the Back River near the town-owned Ferry Landing boat launch. Inquiries will be made regarding the future use of this facility.

The committee discussed their recent tour of Maine Yankee's dam located on Montsweag Brook near Route One. The committee had arranged to have a guided tour of the dam in order to better consider its final disposition in the Maine Yankee shutdown and dismantling. Eric Howes said that the demolition of the dam has not yet been scheduled, and that MY still hoped that some further use might be made of the dam. The dam straddles the Montsweag Brook, which divides Wiscasset from Woolwich, and provides fresh water to Bailey Point through a pipeline. Possible uses might be to provide an auxiliary water supply to new businesses located on the point, or as a town fresh water recreational area. Its removal, however, could restore the smelt run to the brook, and avoid future maintenance costs associated with the dam. The committee came to no conclusion as to what action if any the town should take, but agreed that it might be well for the selectmen to initiate a dialogue with Woolwich on the future of the dam.

The committee next considered the issue of the Maine Yankee hot water diffusers in Back River. Chairman Jones, David Brown, and Harbormaster Bill Sutter described the discussion about the diffusers at the November Community Advisory Panel meeting, which they had attended at Camp Chewonki. There are two diffuser pipes, which are laid end to end on the bottom of Back River parallel to the flow. The diffusers are stepped down in size and perforated. The diffusers are connected to the plant through pipes buried in the mud leading from Foxbird Island.

Maine Yankee provided the committee with a videotape showing a recent underwater inspection of the diffusers pipes. It showed that the pipes had

become a habitat for a variety of marine life, similar to a sunken vessel or barrier reef.

Maine Yankee had identified three options for the diffusers:

1. Remove the pipes completely along with the anchor blocks and thrust blocks, leaving nothing in the river.
2. Fill the pipes with sand to serve as ballast and leave them in place on the river bottom.
3. Their preferred option was to do nothing, leaving the pipes as they are permanently on the bottom of Back River.

Harbormaster Sutter felt very strongly that the diffusers should be removed from the river. "The point is if they leave them, the future use of that part of the river for fishing will be limited," he said. The harbormaster recommended the pipes be removed and their supporting structures be taken down to the mud line.

On a motion by Phil DiVece, passed unanimously, the committee agreed to **recommend to the selectmen that they ask Maine Yankee to remove its diffuser pipes including all support and other apparatus to the mud line.**

Other business included a brief discussion of a waterfront budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. It was agreed to work on the budget at the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. **The next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, Dec. 3 at the firehouse.**