

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes

Monday, Dec. 3, 2001

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

Absent: Joe Piccirillo.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. in the firehouse. The minutes of the November 19 meeting were approved without change.

The harbormaster informed the committee that Daniel Schweitzer of Westport had filed an application for an "Experimental Aquaculture Lease" with the Maine Department of Marine Resources. The application was to lease an area in the Sheepscot River north of Goose Island on the east side of the main channel. Schweitzer had already appeared before the Wiscasset Planning Board to express his intention is to establish a family-owned aquaculture business, growing oysters and other shellfish.

The committee discussed the application but decided not to take any formal action on Schweitzer's proposal because it was not located in the town of Wiscasset. Committee members felt that because there was a possibility of gear conflict between lobstermen and Schweitzer, the DMR ought to hold a public hearing. Sutter said it was his understanding that the DMR would hold a public hearing on Schweitzer's application if at least five area residents, preferably fishermen with an interest in the river made a request. A motion by DiVece that the committee request the DMR hold a local hearing on Schweitzer's application failed. Greg Hammond then said he would contact local lobstermen to make them aware of the application, and urge them to request a hearing.

The chairman reminded the members that the first meeting of the Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 7 pm in the municipal building hearing room. Judy Foss of Stafford Business Advisors will chair the meeting. He encouraged all committee members to attend.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in workshop format discussing a proposed waterfront budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The committee and harbormaster came up with two major capital improvements for the coming year:

- Purchase of a new aluminum ramp for the north side of the main Pier.
- Replacement of 24 fender pilings around the Main Pier.

The complete budget worksheet is attached to these minutes. The committee went on to discuss whether there was legal authority for the town to spend boat excise taxes and other waterfront fees on the waterfront facilities. The committee voted 4-0 to recommend the board of selectmen recommend the following article be including on the warrant of the March 2002 annual town meeting:

Article x. To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to use monies accumulated from excise taxes on boats and boat trailers as well as mooring permit fees, worm car permit fees, tie-up fees, and launch fees to maintain and improve the waterfront facilities.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.
The next meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 7, 2002 at the firehouse.

Waterfront Budget Worksheet

Estimated Balance Forward		\$ 29,000
Requested Appropriation		\$ 0
	<u>Income</u>	
Excise Taxes on Boats And Trailers	\$ 10,000	
Mooring Fees	\$ 9,000	
Launch Fees	\$ 0	
Tie Up Fees	\$ 0	
Pumpout Fees	\$ 0	
Other Income	\$ 0	
Estimated Total Income		\$ 19,000
Estimated Total Revenue		\$ 48,000
	<u>Expenses</u>	
Maintenance		
Grounds (Mowing sweeping, rubbish)	\$ _____	
Toilets	\$ _____	
Utilities	\$ _____	
Piers (Planking)	\$ _____	
Floats (Hauling and painting)	\$ _____	
Total Maintenance Expenses	\$ 10,000	
Install Coin-Operated Pumpout	\$ 2,000	
Upgrade Lighting on Main Pier	\$ 1,000	
Flagpole Maintenance	\$ 1,000	
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 14,000	
Capital Expenses		
Replace North Main Pier Ramp	\$ 6,000	
Replace 24 Fender Pilings on Main Pier and Boardwalk	\$ 24,000	
Regrade South Ferry Landing Launch Ramp	Not This Year	
Total Capital Expenses	\$ 30,000	
Estimated Total Expenses		\$ 44,000
Estimated Balance to 2003		\$ 4,000