

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes
Monday, June 3, 2002

Present: Chairman Don Jones, Greg Hammond, Joe Piccirillo, and Harbormaster Bill Sutter.

Absent: None

Guests: Judith Sutter.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the firehouse. There was a quorum. The minutes of May 6 were approved with out change.

The Harbormaster reported his progress in getting a PE approved mast and boom design. He anticipates that the approved design will be delivered to the selectmen within two weeks, and expects that Bryan Buck will agree to build the new design for the same \$8,250 he previously quoted. He said that he had received the concurrence of the acting town manager to hold off issuing commercial fishing permits authorized in March 2001 until October 2002. He has not yet received the go ahead to order a new aluminum gangway for the Main Pier. There was no progress to report on the sewage pumpout installation.

The committee reviewed the changes to the Creamery Pier policies as finally adopted by the selectmen. Flagpole maintenance is still planned for June by the town highway crew. Hope was expressed for a decision by the selectmen to hire a waterfront attendant for the 2002 summer season.

Despite the committee's request last fall to have all the floats painted back in the water by May 1, the floats will probably not be ready before June 6. The committee discussed reiterating its request of last fall to outsource the float maintenance, but decided to first seek an accurate cost of maintenance this year from Woody Freeman.

The committee discussed the piling damage caused by improper reinstallation of the float off the Pedestrian Pier by the highway crew. The following motion was agreed to by a vote of three to nothing: **The committee recommends to the selectmen that the two pilings, that were pulled out when the Pedestrian Pier floats were improperly reinstalled, be put back in.**

The problem of worm cars and lobster pots illegally left on the floats was discussed at length. Unclaimed worm cars also create a problem for the town crew when they need to haul and paint the floats. The committee discussed various options to alleviate the problem. One idea was to prohibit worm cars entirely from the town floats. The \$20 fee is not worth the aggravation and enforcement problem they cause. Another suggestion was to pair stricter enforcement and harsher penalties in the summer months with an ordinance change to allow worm cars on the floats in the winter months when there are few

others using the floats. This matter will be discussed further before worm car permits expire July 31.

With respect to lobster pots, it was noted that it is illegal for anyone to take another fisherman's traps out of the water, let alone haul them back to Wiscasset from as far away as Five Islands and discard them on the Wiscasset town floats. But lobstermen discard hundreds of traps on the town floats each summer, where some are reclaimed by their owners, but many are left for Wiscasset to dispose of. And yet, the harbormaster reports that marine wardens have criticized the town for disposing of derelict traps. The situation seems to be a classic catch 22. It is illegal for lobsterman to leave the traps on the floats, and it appears also to be illegal for the town to remove them from the floats. One idea is to fine any lobsterman caught leaving someone else's traps on the floats. The committee will discuss the issue further.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. **The next meeting will be in the firehouse on Monday June 17 at 7pm.**