

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee Minutes
Monday, Feb. 4, 2002

Present: All committee members present: Chairman Don Jones; Phil Di Vece, secretary; David Brown, Greg Hammond, Joe Piccirillo and Harbormaster Bill Sutter.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the firehouse. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. The chairman said he had submitted a proposed 2002-2003-waterfront budget to the board of selectmen.

Although there was no agenda for the meeting, a number of subjects were discussed. The following is a summary of the discussions.

Jones reported there had not been a meeting of the town's Shellfish Committee for approximately two years. He mentioned several pressing issues related to shellfish harvesting. Among these is the likelihood there is no longer anyone willing to carry out required marine testing of the mudflats. If the testing and water samples aren't done on a monthly basis Wiscasset's mudflats would be closed to clamming by the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources.

Following a short discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Waterfront Committee recommend selectmen take whatever action necessary to keep Wiscasset's mudflats open to shellfish harvesting; vote 4-1.

Piccirillo, the dissenter, said he did not believe issues related to shellfish harvesting were the responsibility of the Waterfront Committee. "I don't think we should be involved in this," he said.

There are no plans to hold a public hearing on a request for an aquaculture lease. Daniel Schweitzer of Westport Island has filed an application for an "Experimental Aquaculture Lease Application" with the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources in Augusta. The application is to lease an area in the Sheepscot River between Goose Island and the railroad tressels. Schweitzer's wants to establish a shellfish farm to grow oysters.

It's the opinion of the harbormaster the lease area does not interfere with navigation. No local fishermen have requested a hearing. The committee will not request a hearing.

In response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Maine Yankee officials have imposed a tighter security area restricting boating and fishing on the Back River in waters close to the former nuclear plant. Committee member Greg Hammond will investigate this further and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

Haggett lot: There was a general discussion on the status of approximately a quarter-of-an-acre on the waterfront owned by Haggett family. The property abuts the town-owned Creamery Dock; monies were raised to purchase this lot but no purchase has been made. Additional discussion of this matter will take place at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be Feb. 18th at 7 p.m. in the firehouse hearing room.