

Planning and Development Department



Peter Morelli
Economic Development Director



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To the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator and the Citizens of Saco:

It is with great pleasure that we submit our Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2002. The year past is marked by a number of exciting developments for the City of Saco, including new residential, commercial and employment opportunities as Saco continues its role as a "service center community" for York County and southern Cumberland County.

Among the most exciting was the start-up of Amtrak passenger service in February. This has been a goal of the City for some 10 years.

Much of the work accomplished in 2002 is due to the contributions of the Planning Board. Thanks and appreciation for a job well done to Chairman Neil Schuster, Vice Chairman Don Girouard, Joe Moreshead, Kerry Green, Steve Dupuis, Kevin Megin and Jim Atwood.

A successful planning and development office relies on contributions from several Departments within the City. Thanks are due to the individuals from the Code Enforcement Office, Public Works Department, the Fire and Police Departments, the Parks and Recreations Department, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City's consulting engineering firm, DeLuca Hoffman Associates who participate in the review of projects, thereby assuring that well planned development is the rule in Saco.

The Planning Office has been fortunate to be involved in a number of projects this year that will help to maintain Saco's reputation as a leader in providing the quality of life we are fortunate enough to enjoy. The construction of the new First Parish Congregational Church was approved in April. At about the same time, what will soon be one of Saco's largest commercial buildings was reviewed and approved by the Planning Board in the form of the 300,000 square foot Brockway-Smith Co. manufacturing and warehouse facility off Industrial Park Road.

Other projects reviewed and approved included expansion of the existing Hannaford store, Sure Winner Foods, Inc., and Yale Cordage. Route One continues to be the place to shop for automotive needs: new Subaru and Volkswagen dealerships were approved in 2002. Home occupations maintained their popularity, with proposals such as massage therapy, a pet grooming salon, dried flower sales and psychotherapy being approved to operate in neighborhoods throughout the City.

Construction continued in the Industrial Park with the completion of new buildings for Sweetser and Casco Indemnity. Planning is underway for a new business park of 74 acres across Route 1 from Spring Hill Road.

Meeting the needs of residents, whether those proposing a new use in their homes or those concerned with new development nearby, is the primary purpose of the Planning Office. We've enjoyed meeting those of you who utilized the Office for the first time this past year, and look forward to meeting those who will seek us out in 2003 and beyond. Finally, my thanks to our administrative aid, Maggie Edwards, for her valuable work this year.

Peter Morelli
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