Saco Coastal Waters Commission
Minutes of the February 1, 2006 Meeting

I. Call Meeting to Order – At 7:11 PM, a Saco Coastal Waters Commission meeting was held at City Hall.

II. Roll Call of Members – The members present constituted a quorum. The members present: Vice Chairman Robert Morowski, Wayne Hutchins, Peter Scontras, Joseph Stephenson and Todd Stewart. Also present: Council Liaison Roland Michaud and Deputy Director of Public Works Mark Lorello. Absent this evening: Bob Barris – notified.

III. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2006

Joe Stephenson moved, Todd Stewart seconded to approve minutes of January 4, 2006 meeting. Motion passed with 5 yeas.

IV. General

A. 5000 Account Review – Monthly Review

Robert Barris excused as out of state – nothing to report.

V. Old Business

A. Recommendation on James Bastille’s Appointment

The Commission discussed this issue regarding the language in the ordinance, the history of the previous Commissions’ membership and the meaning of the changes made to the ordinance in 2002. It was decided that the issue voted at the last meeting stood and that we needed to look at the wording to determine what the proper term limits are. It was also suggested that the City Attorney look into the meaning for a definitive answer.

Joe Stephenson moved, Todd Stewart seconded that there is no issue regarding the recommendation; the Commission will revisit the ordinance verbiage and is requesting review of the ordinance by the City Solicitor. The motion passed with 5 yeas.

VI. New Business

B. John Williamson Parking Proposal

John Williamson arrived at the meeting and Commission stopped agenda items to listen to Mr. Williamson’s proposal/request for parking at Camp Ellis. Mr. Williamson is in the process of establishing a charter/research business out of Camp Ellis that would require extended day parking and overnight parking at the pier, possible for 3-4 days in a row. He is anticipating, on average, 2 parking spots and on occasion additional spots for crewman. Mr. Williamson is looking for a permit to allow this for about eight months of the year. If parking is not possible, Mr. Williamson does not believe that he can establish his business out of Saco.

This issue had been previously discussed at a meeting, deciding that the issue was moot since the ordinance did not allow it. Discussion centered on whether this would set a precedent for other businesses to use; if the turnover of spots would restrict recreational or citizen parking opportunities, concerns over security in the area and the ordinance issue.
Robert Morowski brought up the fact that previously it had been encouraged that if fisherman wanted an extra parking spot, for use by their stern men or crew, then all they had to do was purchase another commercial user fee permit. He raised the question of why Mr. Williamson, or any other business entity down at Camp Ellis, could not purchase additional permits to be used for their customers or crew, which would then allow unlimited parking day and night. This then raised several questions as whether the ordinance that allowed overnight parking was directed towards permit holders or “fishermen”, if this permit was specific to one vehicle and if it wasn’t, could the permit be moved from one vehicle to another.

Joe Stephenson moved, Todd Stewart seconded to have the City Solicitor make a determination on whether the Commercial User Fee Permit allows for transfer from vehicle to vehicle.

V. Old Business

F. Status of Hiring a Full-Time Harbor Master

Commission discussed the aspects of funding a fulltime Harbor Master. Mark Lorello brought up the fact that the City was exploring an inter-local agreement with the City of Biddeford on this issue and asked that the Commission wait for further information on this.

B. Joint Comprehensive Harbor Plan - Update

As with the discussion of the Harbor Master position, it was requested that the Commission slow down the prospect of a Joint Comprehensive Plan with the City of Biddeford until more was known on the inter-local agreement.

C. Ordinance for Violations & Fines on the Waterways - Review

Ordinances and Fines: It was brought up that the merging of the documents was left to Michelle to do and not the City Attorney as requested, and unfortunately, there were some minor errors that need to be corrected. We also discussed the timeframe of tabling this item an additional month.

Joe Stephenson moved, Todd Stewart seconded to table item to next month for final draft of the merged documents. Motion passed with 5 yeas.

D. Replacement of the Up-River Hoist System - Update

Mark Lorello spoke about the status of the Department of Transportation grant that was slated for the bait house project before this was cancelled due to rising costs. He was told that the money could be used for other projects but needed to quickly provide a letter to DOT identifying what the new project was. The Commission in last months meeting placed the hoists as the first priority.

Mark passed out a proposal by OEST detailing what they would do regarding an analysis of the equipment and usage at Camp Ellis, with the costs for this analysis being $4200. A copy of this proposal is in the January 4, 2006 minutes. The only change in the proposal is that Oest will provide a detailed analysis, rather than a summary. And, this report will also contain a list of identified permits that will be required to construct the project.

Discussion was centered on our matching requirements for the grant (believed to be a 69/31 breakdown), expectations of the Council regarding expenditures and funding if needed for replacement.
of the hoists, the particulars of the proposal by OEST, and whether we should consider additional proposals before agreeing to this one.

Todd Stewart moved, Peter Scontras seconded to go forward with the OEST proposal. Motion passed with 5 yeas.

E. Security Camera System - Update

Mark Lorello also spoke about the development and research regarding the camera system at Camp Ellis. He informally spoke to someone he knows in the business and got generalized information about the two systems available. One system was for simply viewing the area with on-line capabilities (not recorded) that could be made available to the public; the other system was for recording of activities at the pier and geared more towards security with a direct feed possible to the police department.

Costs associated with each system vary greatly and labor will be an issue. Cameras will range in the area of $3500, with a digital recorder costing around $10,000. The recording system would run 24/7 on a single channel and could be feed through an IP address.

It was requested that more information be gathered about the systems; Joe Stephenson will look into existing systems already in use by the City of Biddeford and attempt to get more information.

VII. New Business

A. Fuel Tank Facility Permitting

Mark Lorello reported that after difficulty in making contact with the State Fire Marshall’s Office he was finally able to speak to Steve Dixon about the permitting of the fuel tank. Mark learned that the original permit, filed in 1993, was done by the City of Saco Public Works. He has received a copy of the original permit. Since he received this information this afternoon, he has not had an opportunity to find out how the City will take over the management of this facility or any of the other particulars surrounding it.

VIII. Adjournment

Peter Scontras moved, Wayne Hutchins seconded to adjourn. The motion passed with 5 yeas. Time: 9:50 PM

Attest: Joseph Stephenson Date Approved: March 1, 2006