Saco Coastal Waters Commission  
Minutes of the March 7, 2007 Meeting

I. **Call Meeting to Order** – At 7:05 p.m. 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: Chairman Joseph Stephenson, Vice Chairman Robert Morowski Jr., Treasurer Robert Barris, Wayne Hutchins, Todd Stewart, Peter Scontras and Mike Gray. Also present: Harbormaster Don Abbott, Asst. Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne, Deputy Director of Public Works Mark Lorello, and Dale Shannon, Supervisor at Public Works.

III. **Approval of Minutes** – February 7, 2007

Wayne Hutchins moved, Robert Barris seconded to approve the February 7, 2007 minutes as written. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

IV. **General**

A. **5000 Account Review**

Treasurer Robert Barris will present the 5000 Account report next month.

V. **Old Business**

A. **Hoist & Pylons – Update**

The hoist bid opening was extended to March 13th, at 2:00 p.m. No new information on the pylons.

B. **Security Issues at the Pier – Closed Circuit TV System – Update**

The cable got run for the camera on Monday, and the final connection was done today. There are still some issues on Time Warner’s end, which should be corrected shortly.

D. **Camp Ellis Operation Report for Summer 2006 - Review**

The Commission will be looking into an automated ticket dispenser system for the Camp Ellis Parking Lot. This will be discussed more at next month’s meeting.

Wayne Hutchins moved, Peter Scontras seconded to take some time to look into the automated ticket system, and to go with the current system this year, and to develop the idea as we go along. The motion passed with five (5) yeas and two (2) nays – Todd Stewart and Mike Gray.

C. **Mooring Availability and Abandoned Moorings – Review Mooring Policy**

In the past, individuals have inquired as to whom sets mooring in this area. It was decided to provide a list of names taken from the phone book, as well as other interested individuals who have experience setting mooring. A disclaimer will be put on the bottom of the list, which states that the City of Saco assumes no liability for any of the individuals on the list, it is a private agreement between the mooring owner and the contractor. A memo will also be posted at the Camp Ellis Pier informing individuals that the City is looking for people who have experience setting mooring, and to contact the City if they would like to be included on the list.

Peter Scontras moved, Robert Barris seconded to provide a list of names of individuals who set moorings with a disclaimer stating that the City assumes no liability for the individuals on the list, it is a private agreement between the mooring owner and contractor. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) abstention – Todd Stewart.
There was discussion regarding the City Clerk’s Office sending back incomplete mooring applications to the owners. One of the members noted that even he couldn’t answer some of the questions on the mooring application. The Commission felt that if the owner information, boat information, mooring number and specific location of mooring was completed, that the application shouldn’t be sent back. The Commission also felt that the mooring owner should receive a copy of their mooring application after it has been approved. Currently they don’t receive copies. Also, the date the mooring is inspected, and the mooring coordinates need to be put on future applications.

Asst. Harbormaster Dan Chadbourne drafted a Mooring Inspection Worksheet for the Harbormasters to use in the future. The worksheet lets the mooring owner know what type of condition the: buoy, rope, shackles, swivel, chain, eye, and block are in. It includes a spot for the Harbormasters to comment, to list repairs that are needed, it includes the mooring location defined by latitude and longitude, inspection completion date, inspected by, whether the mooring passed or failed, name of person who sets and removes the mooring, and mooring reset date. This worksheet will be given to the mooring owner after the inspection. It was also recommended that the mooring application should be on the City website in electronic format.

Todd Stewart moved, Robert Morowski seconded to have Robert Barris draft a sample mooring application for new and renewal moorings for the 2008 boating season, for review at next month’s meeting. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) abstention – Robert Barris.

VI. New Business

A. Dept of the Army – Letter regarding the Saco Yacht Club Moorings

The Dept. of the Army letter states that they hereby authorize the Yacht Club moorings to remain in place for the 2007 season provided they are individually approved by the harbormaster(s).

A copy of the letter can be reviewed on page 3, as Attachment A.

B. Biddeford Harbor Comm. Meeting – Report from Saco C.W.C. Representatives

No one from Saco was able to make the meeting. Robert Barris did hear however that the team that will be marking the River will be getting together mid April to start marking the “No Wake”, and the “Headway Speed Only” areas.

C. Policy & Procedure Workshop

Chairman Joseph Stephenson asked the members to think about a date to have a workshop on policies and procedures, which are covered in the River & Harbor and Waterfront Ordinance before the first of May.

VII. Adjourn

Robert Morowski moved, Peter Scontras seconded to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

Attest: Michele L. Hughes, Recording Secretary Date Approved: April 4, 2007
Paul Conners
Saco Yacht Club
P.O. Box 682
Saco, Maine 04072

Dear Mr. Conners:

This concerns our ongoing discussions regarding the yacht club’s existing moorings in the Saco River at Saco, Maine.

As you are aware, the key issue with your members’ moorings is their encroachment into the Saco River Federal Navigation Project (FNP). Corps regulations do not typically allow such encroachment, particularly since the area in question is a Federal channel. The Corps has sent the yacht club a number of letters and has had numerous discussions with the affected municipalities on this issue. It is our understanding that the cities of Biddeford and Saco continue to diligently seek modification/deauthorization of the FNP in this area through their Congressional Delegation. Circumstances beyond the control of the municipalities continue to delay congressional action.

Since 2003 and in the spirit of cooperation, the Corps has annually authorized the moorings to remain in place as long as they do not adversely impact navigation and they are approved by the harbormaster. We continue to remain optimistic that the municipalities will be successful in their quest. Therefore, we hereby authorize them to remain in place for the 2007 season provided they are individually approved by the harbormaster(s).

It continues to be in the best interest of the Yacht Club and its members to work closely with the municipalities, the delegation, and the Corps to resolve this issue. We recognize that this process can often be complex and so we continue to be patiently optimistic. We hope that the matter will be resolved before the 2008 boating season. Please keep us informed of your progress.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Jay Clement of my staff at 207-623-8367 at our Manchester, Maine Project Office.

Sincerely,

Frank J. DelGiudice
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division