Saco Coastal Waters Commission
Minutes of the August 5, 2009 Meeting

I. Call Meeting to Order – At 7:01 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 Gary Marston, Vice-Chairman Mike Gray, Treasurer Robert Barris, Secretary Robert Steeves, Todd Stewart, James Katz and Thomas Casamassa. Also present: Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne, Deputy Director of Public Works Patrick Fox, Council Liaison Sandra Bastille and Dock Master Jerry McMillan.

III. Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2009

Robert Barris moved, Thomas Casamassa seconded to approve the July 1, 2009 minutes as written. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

IV. Coastal Waters Planning

Code of the City of Saco – Chapter 4 Administrative Code - Article VII Boards, Commission & Committees
§4-39 Coastal Waters Commission - A. Duties of the Coastal Waters Commission - (1) Establishing Policy

Studying and evaluating public usage of and boating access to coastal waters under the jurisdiction of the City of Saco and planning for its future use; to advise the City Council on policy matters; and to propose to the City Council regulations concerning the Saco River and the City’s coastal waters.

A. Bob Hamblen Update on Coastal and Saco River Projects

- Saco Island – Island Point project likely to mirror the economy

At this time, the only construction that has been completed is The Run of the Mill Brew Pub. They are looking at a 5 year plan to get the housing, office space and marina projects completed. Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne questioned what was going to happen to the 15 moorings in that area. It was mentioned that there should be a set back from those existing moorings. Also, at low tide the marina project makes it very difficult for boats to navigate from one side of the river to the other.

- River Walk Trail – Phase 1 under way; Phases 2-3 nearly complete.

Saco Spirit, Public Works Dept. and the Parks & Recreation Dept. have been spear heading this project. The trail starts at Pepperell Square and goes down the shore for about 3,500 ft. At this time about two thirds of the walk is done. Phases 2 and 3 are almost completed. Phase 1 is the former Riverfront Park which is the Florida Power and Light parcel that is next to the railroad trussel. One set of deteriorated railroad tie steps have been replaced with concrete steps. There has also been some discussion about doing some improvements to the covered bridge at Jubilee Park, but this needs to be looked into as far as what the River Walk money can be spent on. Biddeford is also intending on doing a River Walk in the future that would start at Mechanic Park the head up river through a corner of the North Dam Mill then along the bank of the river.

- Shoreland Zoning – Approved by Council 6/29

The zoning gets updated every 2 years. Shoreland Zoning is an unfunded mandate. The proposed amendments to the Shoreland Zoning are in the June 1, 2009 City Council minutes, and the final approved amendments are in the June 29, 2009 City Council minutes. These amendments will now have to go to the Department of Environmental Protection for their final approval, and they have 45 days to make a decision.

- Saco Bay Marina

There is a proposal being drawn up by some local businessmen to have a marina (Marina Bay Development, LLC) in
Camp Ellis. Permits are being pursued through the State. The city at this time doesn’t have much information on the proposed project. A copy of the draft conceptual Site Plan Map was received from the US Army Corps of Engineers Office.

A copy of the draft conceptual site plan map for the marina project is on page 5 as Attachment A.

- Saco Bay – OOB

Bob Hamblen explained where Saco’s boundary lines are now, since the State granted Old Orchard Beach the 3 mile area in front of their beach and Pier. Stratton and Bluff Islands are still under Saco’s jurisdiction.

- Saco River and Harbor – Communication adequate between Cities?

At this time there is adequate communication between the cities of Saco and Biddeford.

B. Possible areas of focus for the SCWC

The proposed marina project is of interest to the Commission.

V. General

A. 5000 Account Review

1) Discussion & Account Summary

Treasurer Robert Barris has not received the revenues and expenditures from the Finance Dept. for June and July yet. He should have this information for next month’s meeting.


1) Meetings will start again in September

2) Status of Brochure & Mid-Season Biddeford/Saco Harbor Report

The members thanked Todd Stewart for his efforts in saving the commission money, and in getting the 2000 brochures printed and distributed. Saco Police Chief Bradley Paul will handle ordering any further brochures.

Treasurer Robert Barris presented the Mid-Season Biddeford/Saco Harbor Report, which was prepared by Ptl. Christopher P. Hardiman of the Saco Police Department.

Robert Barris thanked both Saco & Biddeford Police Chiefs for all their efforts with the Harbor Patrol.

A copy of the Mid-Season report is on page 6 as Attachment B.

C. Harbor Master

1) Comments / Issues

No comments or issues at this time.

VI. Old Business:

A. Pending Requests: Maintenance & Care of City-Owned Waterfront Facilities – Planning Harbor Improvements

1) Pier signs/Dan update: 1-Charter Boat, 2-Surveillance and 2-No Unattended Vessels

The Charter Boat and No-Unattended Vessels signs had been put up. The surveillance signs haven’t been completed yet.

2) Camp Ellis Float Dredging

Dep. Dir. of Public Works Pat Fox has sent e-mails to Deluca Hoffman, and will be requesting a time line, and cost
3) Move Pier parking attendant building further into parking lot allow vehicle access to window-adjust window if necessary

This will be done in the off-season

4) Replacement of Pier winch and motor on Center Hoist unit to outdoor quality

The winch and motor was replaced on the center hoist with outdoor quality ones. There is now also a continuous power cord that goes from the new unit back down to where you turn the key. The timer for the keys was also replaced.

The hook on the hoist is too small, so Public Works will look into getting it changed out to a one ton size.

5) Pour concrete anchor pad for Pier Ramp area floats
6) Purchase 4 new 20’ Pier floats/Relocate 2 existing floats to Pier Ramp area
7) Run water service to Pier Beaching Piles and cleaning up of the area
8) Run conduit and 110v/220v service to Pier Beaching Piles

Items #5 - #8 will also be done in the off season.

B. Abandoned Moorings – 1 Year Wait Period

It was decided not to institute a 1 year wait period. The language in the current ordinance will be used to determine if someone loses their mooring privileges. If they do lose their mooring spot, they would then have to go back on the mooring wait list.

Currently there are 2 moorings which have not been used this year. The Harbormaster will determine if these are abandoned moorings and how to deal with the mooring equipment if they are abandoned.

VII. New Business

A. Inadequate Operation of Security Camera #3 and Old Piling Removal

Security Camera #3 – This camera needs to be repositioned to face the floats, because there is too much glare right now the way it is positioned.

Old Piling – These are between the ice breaker and the Fishin Optician’s boat and they need to be removed, because some boats have recently hit them. Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne with the assistance of Todd Stewart dived down with his gear and cut the tallest one off, but there are about 20 more down there. This is being considered a navigational hazard. The Harbormaster recommended renting a hydraulic chain saw to cut the rest of them off. The commission proposed that the city get some quotes to get this pilings removed.

Robert Barris moved, James Katz seconded to have the Public Works Dept. look into the removal of these pilings that the Harbormaster has deemed a navigational hazard. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) abstention – Todd Stewart.

B. Other New Business

1) Sticker Guy

The sticker guy is back again this year, and is putting cartoon stickers on everything in Camp Ellis. Someone witnessed him doing it last year, so the Dock Master Jerry McMillan will address this issue him.
2) Downriver Hoist

The power in doesn’t work, and the shaft is now showing stress failure, and needs to be addressed. Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne will have an engineer check this out and see what his recommendations are present them to the Public Works Department.

3) Dockmaster Jerry McMillian

Todd Stewart and the rest of the members commended Dock Master Jerry McMillan for his professional and dedicated work at the Pier.

VIII. Adjournment

James Katz moved, Robert Barris seconded to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Attest: Michele L. Hughes, Recording Secretary          Date Approved: September 2, 2009
SACO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
20 STORER STREET  
SACO, MAINE

To: Chief Bradley Paul

From: Ptl. Christopher P. Hardiman

Date: 7-24-09

RE: Mid-Season Biddeford/Saco Harbor Report

To date the Biddeford/Saco Harbor Patrol has compiled the following statistics for the summer of 2009. Included in this report is the number of arrest reports, rescued vessels, wake zone violations/warnings, safety checks/warnings, resource checks and assist other agencies performed by the Harbor Patrol.

Harbor Patrol has towed six disabled vessels. Two were on the Saco River and four from Saco Bay and the area of the mouth of the Saco River. Two of the vessels were in imminent danger. The first pounding against the jetty with two young children aboard and the second had lost propulsion and was going to run aground onto Stratton Island in high seas with a 70-year-old operator that could not swim at the helm.

Harbor Patrol Officers have conducted 161 safety checks on recreational boaters. 35 warnings have been issued.

To date 112 boaters have been warned for wake zone violations.

13 striped bass have been measured, with no violations. Three arrest reports for Fishway violations have been issued.

Three boaters have been warned for bow-riding and one for operating an unregistered boat.

Harbor Patrol Officers have assisted the Maine State Marine Patrol five times, the Saco Fire Department once and the Old Orchard Police Department once.

Since mid-June every calendar day with the exception of July 1 and 2, which were weekdays during active shooter training have been covered. Despite the rainy weather only one patrol has been cancelled and one cut short due to heavy rain.

Respectfully submitted,

Officer Christopher P. Hardiman