Saco Coastal Waters Commission
Minutes of the December 1, 2009 Meeting

I. Call Meeting to Order – At 7:00 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, and Thomas Casamassa (7:10 p.m.). Also present: Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne. Absent this evening: James Katz – Notified, Dock Master Jerry McMillan, and Council Liaison Sandra Bastille.

III. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2009

Robert Barris moved, Robert Steeves seconded to approve the November 3, 2009 minutes as written. The motion passed with four (4) yeas, and one (1) abstention – Todd Stewart.

IV. General
   A. 5000 Account Review
      1) Discussion & Account Summary

Treasurer Robert Barris reviewed the 5000 Account Budget.

At the last meeting, some bills were questioned. Treasurer Robert Barris got further information on these bills from the Finance Dept. and discussed them with the Commission. It was determined that one of the bills that got paid (Bastille Boat Works for $260), shouldn’t have been paid by the City, it should have been paid by the person who owned the boat, or their insurance company. Treasurer Robert Barris will contact the Finance Dept., to get them to bill back the supplier, and let the supplier know that they need to bill the correct customer.

It was also noted that some bills coming through for joint payments from the City of Saco and City of Biddeford for services are rather high. It was mentioned that in the future, the cities ought to look into going out to bid.

A copy of the 5000 Account Budget is on page 4 as Attachment A.

VII. New Business
   A. Hunting on the Saco River and the Potential Conflict it Presents with Individuals who are still Boating or Kayaking on the River

Saco Police Chief Bradley Paul attended the meeting to discuss hunting on the river. He noted that the city has no authority to regulate hunting, only the State of Maine can do this. The city can only regulate firearms discharge, and this only extends to the bank/shore of the river, not into the river.

IV. General
      1) Meetings Scheduled for December 3rd

There will be a meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Alfred Station in Biddeford.

Treasurer Robert Barris will bring up a procedural process for joint payments for services.

   C. Harbor Master
      1) Comments /Issues
      2) Status of Sailboat Removal

Some people have been working on taking parts off the boat in order to float it and remove it.

V. Coastal Waters Planning
A. Saco River-Federal Channel Maintenance Dredging

No new information.

VI. Old Business:
   A. Maintenance & Care of City-Owned Waterfront Facilities
      1) Mooring Storage Area Signs

It was decided that an insert will be put in with the mooring application telling applicants where the designated Mooring Storage areas are, rather than putting signs up.

   2) Pier Surveillance Equipment – Clarity Issue

No new information.

   3) Camp Ellis Float Dredging

The Saco River Corridor Commission voted unanimously for the dredging project.

Deluca Hoffman received an e-mail from the Maine Department of Conservation Submerged Land Program, which they forwarded onto the Dep. Dir. of Public Works Patrick Fox. The e-mail is requesting the following:
   • Because the city is going below the mean low water mark we need to have another 30 day public comment period.
   • A 2 year lease agreement with the State will need to be signed to remove the sand because it is State water. This also requires a $100 application fee.
   • Need to prove that the city owns the beach for the area to be dredged.

   4) Down and Up River Hoist Power In/Out Doesn’t Work and Shafts Show Stress Failure

The original Engineer Ted O’Cana is working with the city on this.

   5) Planned Off Season Pier Maintenance – Pending Requests
      a. Move Pier Parking Attendant Building Further into Parking Lot to Allow Vehicle Access to Window – Adjust Window if Necessary
      b. Pour Concrete Anchor Pad for Pier Ramp Area Floats
      c. Purchase 4 new 20’ Pier Floats for Installation the End of April/Relocate 2 Existing Floats to Pier Ramp Area

Items a, b & c (relocate existing floats) all require a permit approval from the Saco River Corridor Commission.

      d. Replacement of Pier Center Hoist Winch Hook to One Ton Size

The new hook was installed today.

      e. Outside Fender Piles of the Pier

No new information.

VII. New Business
   A. New Year Meeting Schedule

Starting in February 2010 meetings will go back to Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

   B. Other New Business

Status of Thank you letter to Dept. of Marine Resources, Saco & Biddeford Police Departments and US Coast Guard
Auxiliary – Secretary Robert Steeves will be forwarding this to the Recording Secretary to send out later this week. He also noted that James Katz VFC, of Flotilla 24 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary was asked by the Commission last month to provide an update on the activities of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. Katz e-mailed this letter to the Commission mid November.

Signs – It was noted that there needs to be a couple of signs at the Pier stating that any use of the Pier requires a permit.

Net on the Pier – The Harbormaster has been contacted, and he is aware and said that it should be removed in a couple of days.

A copy of the letter detailing the Activity of the USCG Auxiliary, Saco Bay Flotilla is on page 5 as Attachment B.

VIII. Adjournment of Saco Coastal Waters Commission Meeting

Robert Barris moved, Todd Stewart seconded to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

Attest: Michele L. Hughes, Recording Secretary Date Approved: January 5, 2010
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November 13, 2009

To: Saco Coastal Waters Commission
From: James Katz
Subject: Activity USCG Auxiliary, Saco Bay Flotilla

I was asked at our last meeting to provide an update on the activities of the Coast Guard Auxiliary within the waters that fall under the responsibility of the SCWC. As you may know the Coast Guard Auxiliary is an all-volunteer organization that was chartered by Congress seventy years ago to support all of the non-law enforcement programs of the United States Coast Guard.

The programs the Auxiliary operates in the SCWC area include:
1. On the water operation of safety patrol boats to assist with search and rescue and provided assistance to persons in distress.
2. Courtesy vessel safety checks to assist boaters in operating safe craft which meet state and federal legal requirements.
3. Commercial vessel safety examinations.
4. Boater education programs at local college and adult education programs.
5. Visits to local marine dealers, marinas, and kayak launch and rental outlets to provide them with safety literature to the boating public.

The goal of all of these programs is "preventive" Search and Rescue. A well-educated boater will likely never become a statistic.

In regard to the above missions, the Saco Bay Flotilla provided the following during 2009:
1. Conducted a safe boating class OOB\Saco Adult Education to 10 students this spring. Seven of these students were first responders from the OOB Fired Department.
2. Conducted a safe boating class at Massabesic High School to six students in the spring and 10 students at University of New England in the fall.
3. Conducted a GPS Navigation Course at OOB\Saco Adult Education to 9 students in the fall of 2009 (one first responder student).
4. Two member-owned patrol vessels provided over 105 hours of underway time comprising 25 separate missions from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. These patrols resulted in assisting two vessels in distress, assisting three individuals, and assisting the Coast Guard in monitoring a vessel aground and abandoned near Cow Island.
5. A total of 481 courtesy marine examinations were conducted at Marblehead Boat Launch, Marston’s Marina, Saco Yacht Club and other locals. Six commercial fishing exams were completed.
6. Visits were made to local marinas, boat yards and kayak rental outlets. Five hundred kayak safety packets were distributed along with general boater safety information.
It is our hope that the above has given you a sampling of the contribution to the boating community made by the 33 members of Saco Bay Flotilla 24. These individuals volunteer their time in service to our country, the maritime community, and the Saco Bay region in particular with the single goal of saving lives.

JIM KATZ

Sincerely yours,
James M. Katz
Coastal Waters Commissioner
Vice Flotilla Command, Flotilla 24, Saco Bay
207-283-4601