Saco Coastal Waters Commission  
Minutes of the April 6, 2011 Meeting  
Transcribed by a Tape Recording

I. Call Meeting to Order & Roll Call of Members – At 7:00 p.m. a Saco Coastal Waters Commission meeting was held at City Hall. The members present constituted a quorum. The members present: Chairman Gary Marston, Vice-Chairman Todd Stewart, Treasurer Carl Lagerstrom, James Katz, Thomas Casamassa and John Nickerson. Absent: Secretary Robert Steeves (Notified). Also present: Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2011

Todd Stewart moved, Carl Lagerstrom seconded to approve the minutes of March 2, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

III. Craig Pendleton: Striper Tournament

Craig Pendleton, Director of the Chamber of Commerce talked to the Commission about a Striped Bass Tournament. He explained that the Chamber was trying to find a way to compliment the Buy Local program and at the same time engage the public in something that would be fun.

The tournament will be held on June 11, 2011, and the rain date would be June 12, 2011. The fees to enter are $25.00 for an adult and $10.00 for a child. Trophies and prizes will be awarded. The Chamber is talking with the Yacht Club about possibly seeing if members would be willing to take people out that don’t have boats, especially kids. The liability insurance issue will need to be addressed first.

Fifty percent of the proceeds of the tournament will go into the Aaron Drisko Scholarship Fund. Last year, three $500 scholarships were awarded. One scholarship, to each of the following schools: Thornton Academy, Biddeford High School and the Biddeford Center of Technology.

The Chamber is hoping to have two measuring stations, one on the Saco side at the floats in Camp Ellis and the other one on the Biddeford side at Marblehead.

There was a concern about the fish being wasted, so a couple of ideas were to have barrels out around and people could leave the fish to be used for lobster bait or if the Chamber could find someone to filet the fish, then they could be donated to the food pantry.

The Commission thought this was a great idea. Chairman Gary Marston explained that the Chamber would be considered the same as an individual and they would pay the regular day pier use permit fee and parking fee.

VII. Coastal Waters Planning  
A. May Spring Clean-Up

Treasurer Carl Lagerstrom met with the Ecology School and they are planning on doing their river cleanup on June 4, 2011 which coincides with the National Clean River Week. Carl spoke to Saco Harbormaster Dan Chadbourne and Biddeford Asst. Harbormaster Paul Lariverre and they decided to do a river clean-up in mid September while the boats are still in. The Ecology School and UNE will help with the fall clean-up event and Craig Pendleton from the Chamber said that they will also help to get the word out about the event.

A copy of the Canoe-A-Thon and Saco River Clean-up is on page 5 as Attachment A.
C. History of the Coastal Waters Commission

The Commission asked Craig Pendleton who was one of the original founding members to give a brief history of the Commission. Mr. Pendleton noted that when his term ended on the commission, he gave all the original documents and minutes to James & Sandra Bastille.

Originally, the commission was designed to end some of the disagreements that were going on between fisherman and recreational boaters, the city and the Harbormaster and the Saco Harbormaster and the Biddeford Harbormaster. At the time, Ward 4 City Councilor Horace Wood thought that the city was neglecting the opportunities on the river and bay. A group of individuals who were involved in government entities at that time were appointed to the first commission. The Commission was given the task of managing not only the river, but out into Saco Bay. They did the same things then that they do now such as: setting regulations, designing brochures, applying for grants and managing the pier use accounts which made them self sufficient to maintain the pier and meeting and working with the Biddeford Harbor Commission.

V. 2011 Capital Work Plan and Issues List Updates
E. Status of the Commission Voting to have the Legal Department look into the Hoist Issue

Vice Chairman Todd Stewart contacted former Council Liaison Jeffrey Christenbury to find out what the status was on the city Solicitor looking into the issue with the hoists. On February 24, 2011 an e-mail was sent out stating that City Administrator Rick Michaud had looked at the contract and there was a clause that says that unless the problems are reported within 60 days to the engineer, then there is no warranty and there isn’t anything that can be done. Todd e-mailed Jeffrey Christenbury, City Administrator Rick Michaud and Mayor Roland Michaud back and stated that the commission did bring the issues up within the 60 days period, because there were problems from day one. Todd Stewart noted that the commission is here to bring recommendations to the City Council and not city staff. A couple of months ago a motion was made to recommend to the city council that they pursue a review by the city solicitor to see if any legal action should be taken against the engineers of the hoist.

The commission will have Secretary Robert Steeves draw up a letter to be presented to the City Council members showing the history that has been documented and that the Commission feels the city attorney should review that information and see if in fact the city could seek some compensation from the engineering firm.

IV. Election of Officers and Term Limits Review

Currently the slate of officers are as follows: Chairman-Gary Marston, Vice-Chairman-Todd Stewart, and Secretary-Robert Steeves. The election of officers is for a term of one year.

Thomas Casamassa moved, Carl Lagerstrom seconded to leave the slate of officers as it is right now. The motion passed with four (4) yeas.

V. 2011 Capital Work Plan and Issues List Updates
A. Pier Parking Process – Base Unit Location

The site review for the park and display meter went well, and it was decided to do more of these in the future if the opportunity arises.

B. New Building

Todd Stewart noted that several people have inquired about getting software to access the cameras in Camp Ellis. The cameras have been down since October 2010, and are scheduled to go back up when the new building gets here.
at the end of April 2011. The commission continues to pay $115 a month to Time Warner Cable service for these cameras. Chairman Gary Marston will contact Deputy Director of Public Works Pat Fox to check on the status of the building and cameras, and the other projects.

C. Hoists

The down-river hoist power in/out is a little slow, so it will be adjusted up a bit. The up-river hoist hardly moves at all and it doesn’t swing up, so some adjustments will need to be made to this one as well.

VI. Quarterly 2000 Account Financial Report

There were some questions about why late fees were not being paid on some Pier Use Permits last summer and Mooring Applications this spring. Treasurer Carl Lagerstrom will check into this.

VII. Coastal Waters Planning

B. Downeast Maine Shark Tournament – Motion for Use of Pier

The tournament will be held on Friday August 26th and Saturday August 27th, 2011. They will be required to pay the regular daily pier use fee and parking fees. The tournament director will be notified about the new park and display meters which will be in use at that time. It was also recommended that because this is such a large event, the city may want to think about having an extra parking lot attendant for those 2 days, or maybe not use the park and display meters for those days, and just charge a flat fee. This will be discussed with Public Works.

Todd Stewart moved, Thomas Casamassa seconded to move to accept the proposal for the Shark Tournament to be held on August 26th & 27th, 2011. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

A copy of the proposal from Dave Johnson, Director of the Downeast Maine Shark Tournament is on page 6 as Attachment B.

VIII. Other New Business

A. Items Identification: Subjects to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

B. Harbormaster Training

Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne attended the Maine Harbor Master’s Association Training Program on March 23 – 25, 2011.

Fender Pile Project - He spoke to Jay Clement from the US Army Corps of Engineers and he said that there may be money available to do the fender pile project and other projects. It was also noted that 2 of the 3 pilings should be replaced on the down river side where the ramp is. The Harbormaster recommended that the commission make a motion to pursue D.O.T grant money for the various projects.

Todd Stewart moved, John Nickerson seconded to ask Public Works to seek bids to replace 26 fender piles and 2 down river fender piles where the ramp rides with green hart piles to make a total of 28. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

Carl Lagerstrom moved, Thomas Casamassa seconded to pursue grant money from D.O.T for the fender piles, floats, park and display meter and the ramp for the floats. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

Dredging Project - Ed O’Donnell, Mark Cable and Jay Clement from the US Army Corps of Engineers were at the conference as well. Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne and Biddeford Harbormaster Marshall Alexander both hand delivered copies of the dredging application to them. The Army Corps representatives didn’t seem very positive
about the dredging project. However, they did mention that there is a Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund which all the big harbors pay into to fund harbor improvements.

Breakwater Project - Mark Cable from the US Army Corps is in charge of the breakwater project, said that originally there was going to be a 750’ breakwater and two more 300’ breakwaters. He informed the Harbormaster that the two 300’ breakwaters were removed from the project and that they will just be going with the 750’ breakwater. He also noted that there may not even be $26 million available from the government to do the project right now. The report on the breakwater will be published in June 2011.

Prescription Drugs - It was also noted at the conference that boats are illegally bringing in prescription drugs from Canada and they are asking that if anyone sees this happening that they notify the police.

New Copper Paint Regulations - Copper paint can no longer be used on boats in the river.

IX. Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda
X. Adjournment

James Katz moved, Thomas Casamassa seconded to adjourn at 8:50pm

Attest: Michele L. Hughes, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: May 4, 2011
12th Annual Canoe-A-Thon & Saco River Clean-Up

Saturday, June 4, 2011
Rain Date: Sunday, June 5th

1:30 Registration at the Front Street Public Boat Launch | 2pm Canoe Launch and River Clean-Up

Grab your canoe, kayak or skiff and join the staff of Ferry Beach Ecology School to help clean up the Saco River! On Saturday, June 4th, we’ll kick off the day at 1:30pm at the Front Street Public Boat Launch* in Saco and paddle with the tide south to Camp Ellis.

The two-hour trip will involve pulling garbage, tires, boots, and other interesting surprises from the river. All trash collected will be hauled out at the boat launch in Camp Ellis. Shuttle service will be available to reunite paddlers with their vehicles. After the clean-up, participants will enjoy a barbecue at the Ferry Beach Ecology School campus on Route 9.

Not only will you be cleaning up the Saco River, but you’ll be raising money for the Ferry Beach Ecology School Program Fund.

Register for the event and you’ll receive a pledge sheet. The money you collect will provide scholarship opportunities for children and adults to participate in Ferry Beach Ecology School residential environmental education programs.

Prizes will be awarded for the person with the most money collected and for the person who gets the most number of pledges. Colorful costumes and attire are encouraged, but not required. Craziest costume will also be awarded a prize.

Sponsored By:

To register or to become a sponsor, visit www.fbes.org

Maureen@fbes.org • www.fbes.org • (207) 283-9951 • 8 Morris Ave • Saco, ME
To Members of the Saco Water Commission: 2/23/2011

I would like to once again ask the Commission for permission to use the Camp Ellis Pier at the end of August 2011, for the weigh-in station of the Downeast Maine Shark Tournament. This year, we would like to hold the tournament on Friday and Saturday, August 26th and 27th. As in the past, we would only like access to the piers for fish weigh-ins in the afternoons if possible, specifically, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday, 8/26, and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday, 8/27. This year, the tournament will have a new charity, which will be the Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital.

Last year, we had 26 teams in the event, and it went quite smoothly. There was absolutely no interest drawn by protesters last year, and Jerry said that the dock made money on parking, as we drew quite a good crowd again for the weigh-ins. As in the past, the tournament will have a police officer on duty during the weigh-ins again this year.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if these dates and times are acceptable to the Commission to use the pier for the event again this year. Thanks very much for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Johnson
Director, Downeast Maine Shark Tournament