Saco Coastal Waters Commission
Minutes of the September 8, 2011 Meeting

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, Treasurer Carl Lagerstrom, Secretary Robert Steeves, James Katz, John Nickerson and James Henderson. Absent: Thomas Casamassa. Also present: Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne and Assistant Dockmaster Norman Spaulding.

II. Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2011

The minutes of August 4, 2011 were approved with unanimous consent.

III. Planning for New Officers

Chairman Gary Marston’s term will be ending on October 16, 2011. When he leaves, that will leave the commission with no Chairman and Todd Stewart who resigned last month was the Vice-Chairman. The commission decided to appoint these two positions now, but they wouldn’t actually take over until the after October 16, 2011.

Carl Lagerstrom moved, John Nickerson seconded to nominate James Katz as Chairman and James Henderson as Vice-Chairman, to serve until nominations in April 2012. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

IV. 2012 – Capital Work Plan Updates

A. Dock Maintenance (build one new float?)

Dept. of Public Works will continue to do dock rehab and new float construction at the Public Works facility during the winter, as weather and schedule permit. Additional cleats will be put on the downriver docks for next year.

B. US Army Corps of Engineers Dredging Update

Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne provided the following update: The US Army Corps of Engineers stated that the application that was submitted was extensive, and that they do not need any additional information. They did note that at this point, there is no money available to do the dredging project. They are also in the process of hiring a new project manager sometime this month. Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne and a representative from Biddeford will be going down to the headquarters within the next month or so to meet the new project manager.

C. Rebuild Launching Ramp/Gangwalk

A pier assessment, formal plan and budget are still in the works. Permitting and design may be coupled with pier rehab project.

Boat Ramp - Harbormaster Daniel Chadbourne reviewed the Boat Ramp construction plan and required permitting that was discussed last month. Jay Clement from the US Army Corps also suggested contacting the Dept. of Marine Resources to make sure they are all set with this project. Once this project is done, it should last about 30 years.

River Dredge & Beach Replenishment Projects - The US Army Corps of Engineers has put in for half the money to do the spur project/beach replenishment in Camp Ellis. It was suggested that the US Army Corps of Engineers do the River Dredge and Beach Replenishment projects together, because whatever money doesn’t get spent out of the $26.9 million beach replenishment, could be saved for the next replenishment in 12 years. Every 12 years the beach will need to be replenished at the expense of the City of Saco. If 360,000 yards of sand was taken out of the...
river and put it on the beach that theoretically would be $7 million (guesstimate of what the sand would be worth) off the $26.9 million. At this time the City is looking into a partnership with State and Fed’s in order to be able to afford to do the beach replenishment every 12 years. The earliest the beach replenishment project would start is 2013 and it would be about an 8 month project.

D. New Stearn and Aft Moorings Inside Down River – GIS for Mooring Locations

It was decided not to do this for safety reasons.

E. Remove Part of Curb by Pump Station

Entrance curb will be redone in late fall or early spring. Water line replacement for winter water available at pier may dictate curb work timing and level of paving done in the parking lot. Existing water line to building is shallow and has a meter pit that would freeze and not allow winter usage of restrooms.

The Commission recommended that the restroom be shut down at the end of October and to reopen them in April, barricade the space/alley way between the two building, and we do not recommend the use of a porta-potty unless Dept. of Public Works receives complaints.

It was also noted that the light sensor in the restroom needs to be adjusted as well to make it easier for the lights to turn on, and it should also be lowered. A note should also be added to each of the rest room doors providing a number that can be called is someone has a problem with the facilities, to alert the city of the issue.

F. Surveillance Cameras: Wireless at Park and Pay – Site Visit

The wireless component and camera were ordered and can really only get mounted on the new light pole near the pump station to view the pay station. They are also working on getting better resolution and a month to review. The system is set up for 8 cameras and there are currently 4 cameras.

It was recommended that an additional camera is needed to observe the north side of the restroom facility, and seasonally from when the upriver floats are pulled out, adjust the cameras to observe the boats in the winter anchorage.

G. Pier Maintenance Assessment – Bids to Replace 28 Suspect Piles

Pier inspection that is done periodically is needed at this time. Determination of fender pile design purpose and condition can be coupled with inspection of pier. Replacement of fender piles could be coupled with ramp project.

It was noted that if this work is done between Labor Day and Memorial Day, that there should be some guidelines in place that say sometime like ‘not blocking off more than a 1/3 of the pier at a time’ in order to still provide access, because there is still allot of people working on the waterfront during this time period.

H. Tidal Water Enforcement – Harbor Patrol

The Commission will be inviting Saco Police Chief Bradley Paul to the next meeting to get an update on the summer season. It was noted that there was no coverage 2 weeks before Labor Day, and it was believed to be a budget issue. It was mentioned that if there are budget issues, and coverage can’t be provided then maybe the commission should look into providing temporary coverage.


A. Budgeting
No report until October.

VI. Coast Waters Planning
   A. Fall River Clean-Up

This will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011 from Noon – 2 p.m. with a rain-date of Sunday, September 25, 2011.

Saco residents will meet at the Front Street boat launch, and Biddeford residents will meet at the Marblehead boat launch. Treasurer Carl Lagerstrom will also be contacting the Saco Bay Trails, UNE and the Boy Scouts to let them know about the clean-up and to see if he can recruit some volunteers. There will be at least 3 boats for the clean-up to gather debris from the kayaks and canoes and Carl will also be contacting Wazoo and the City of Biddeford to see if they can get access to a dump truck to pick up the clean-up debris at Marblehead. Maine Coastal Week will be providing 60 clean-up bags. Disposal of trees is also an issue that will need to be addressed.

VII. Other New Business
   A. Harbormaster Updates

   B. Other Items

Up River Boat Landing – Are there any other areas on the river with public boat access besides Front Street? Norwood’s Marina would be the only other one.

VIII. Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 4, 2011.

IX. Adjournment of Saco Coastal Waters Commission Meeting

The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 8:46 p.m.

Attest: Michele L. Hughes, Recording Secretary Date Approved: October 4, 2011