



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION**



**Minutes of January 12, 2006 Public Meeting**  
**Connecticut Department of Transportation – State Pier**  
**New London, Connecticut**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:10 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, William Gash, and Captain Joseph Staneko were present. Also in attendance were Alan Stevens and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G., Captain Charles Jonas, (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), Captain Mike Ball and Captain Rich Astles (Block Island Pilots), Captain William Mulligan and Captain Vince Cashin (both Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.), Captain Thomas Walker (Long Island Sound State Pilots Association), and Jeff Zyjeski.

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the December 8, 2005 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Captain Staneko.

Mr. Eisele circulated minutes of the New York Board.

Mr. Eisele reported on the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case. Briefing will be concluded by February 2, 2006.

The Commission discussed the status of its November 28, 2005 recommendation regarding a temporary fuel surcharge. Mr. Eisele reported that DOT has accepted the Commission's recommendation and will provide public notice and a comment period. DOT intends to implement the fuel surcharge beginning on February 1, 2006 for a period of 180 days.

The Pilot Commission discussed the status of its November 28, 2005 recommendation to DOT regarding proposed legislation to change the authority and composition of the Pilot Commission. Mr. Eisele distributed copies of DOT's suggested revisions. Mr. Eisele will distribute those revisions by e-mail for further discussion.

The Commission discussed making a recommendation to DOT to lift the long-standing license moratorium. The Commission considered whether the current regulations permit issuance of a limited license, which might be used as a de facto apprenticeship. The Commission decided to delay any action on this issue pending consideration by the full Commission at the February public meeting.

The Commission did not address its evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance due to the absence of several members. The Commission will review the previous draft recommendation at the February public meeting.

The Commission discussed reports of vessel movements while lightering at anchorages. The Commission reviewed its March 31 2004, September 11 2003, and September 27 2002 communications with DOT regarding recommended legislative changes to close a perceived gap in the statutes with respect to the requirement for state-licensed pilots during intraport movements. The Commission also reviewed the Coast Guard's August 20, 2002 correspondence to DOT regarding this issue. LCDR Blume commented on jurisdictional issues and the Coast Guard's experience with unlicensed docking pilots in other states. Mr. Gash moved that the Commission make a recommendation to DOT requesting immediate action to require state-licensed pilots for all underway shifts at anchorage. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Mr. Gash then moved that the Commission prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Commission at the February public meeting. The motion was seconded by Captain Staneko and passed unanimously. Mr. Eisele will prepare a draft recommendation.

Captain Jonas distributed news reports of the loss at sea of a Columbia River Bar Pilot while disembarking a vessel.

The Commission continued its discussion regarding the use of pilot launches at New Haven and Bridgeport. LCDR Blume commented that the Coast Guard has the ability to enforce any applicable regulations with respect to passenger vessel safety, but does not determine whether vessels are suitable for particular purposes, such as a pilot launch.

LCDR Blume reported on the status of the Broadwater permitting process. LCDR Blume also reported that the New York REC is expected to change the geographic limits of pilotage in the western Long Island Sound to accommodate DOT's request that federal pilotage endorsements coincide with the limits of pilotage under the Memorandum of Agreement between New York and Connecticut. LCDR Blume also commented on the status of a WAMS for Plum Gut and North Gardiners Bay.

Mr. Stevens informed the Commission that DOT is working on the issue of reimbursement for transportation expenses and that DOT had equipment available to take photographs of the attending pilots for use on 2006 badges. Mr. Stevens also advised the Commission that Captain Beck will be unavailable for the next several public meetings due to a conflict with mandatory state training.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at U.S.C.G., Sector Long Island Sound, 120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT.

Michael J. Eisele  
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission