



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of December 8, 2005 Public Meeting
U.S.C.G. Sector Long Island Sound – 120 Woodward Ave.
New Haven, Connecticut

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, Dave Shuda, Joe Russo, Dave Pohorylo, and William Gash were present. Also in attendance were Richard Jaworski, Charles Beck, and Dave Rossiter (all CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G., Captain Charles Jonas, (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), Captain Mike Ball (Block Island Pilots), Captain William Mulligan, and Captain Ted Sanford (both Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.).

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the November 10, 2005 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Gash.

Mr. Eisele circulated minutes of the New York Board.

Captain Ball advised the Commission that he had reported to DOT and the New York Board an October 29, 2005 allision while docking the M/V PANORMITIS at Gateway Terminal. The Commission did not believe that any further inquiry was warranted.

Mr. Eisele reported on the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case and distributed copies of briefs filed in connection with cross-motions for summary judgment. Responsive briefs are due January 18, 2006.

Mr. Eisele distributed copies of the Commission's Annual Report for the period 7/1/04 – 7/1/05 and asked the Commission members to circulate the report to various legislative and leaders.

The Pilot Commission discussed the status of its November 28, 2005 recommendation to DOT regarding proposed legislation to increase the authority of the Pilot Commission. Mr. Eisele distributed copies of the recommendation.

The Commission discussed the status of its November 28, 2005 recommendation regarding a temporary fuel surcharge in the amount of \$150 per boarding or disembarkation, for a period not to exceed 6 months. Mr. Eisele distributed copies of the recommendation.

The subcommittee assigned to evaluate the performance of the Joint Administrator provided the Commission with a draft recommendation. The Commission will review the draft for discussion at the January public meeting.

Captain Jonas reported that there has been progress in discussions regarding a unified association of the pilots working on the Connecticut side of the rotation. Captain Jonas advised that Interport had moved a second pilot boat to New London in anticipation that the unified association would utilize its two boats.

Captain Sanford requested that the Commission commit to make a recommendation regarding pilotage fees by February.

Mr. Eisele reported that there has been no response to the Commission's September 26 offer to provide assistance to the Governor's LNG Task Force.

Mr. Eisele reported that he had addressed the Connecticut Maritime Commission regarding pilotage issues at the CMC's November 17 public meeting.

Mr. Rossiter reported that 16 pilots had submitted renewal applications as of 12/7/05. Captain McInerney and Captain Duffy have not yet applied for renewal.

LCDR Blume reported on the status of the Broadwater permitting process.

The Commission discussed safety issues involving the use of commercial launches to transport pilots at the New Haven and Bridgeport anchorages. Lcdr Blume advised that the Coast Guard would review this situation.

The Commission discussed the issue of vessel movements while lightering at anchorage. This issue will be continued on the Commission's agenda.

The Commission discussed the prospects for a recommendation that new pilot licenses be issued in 2006. This issue will be continued on the agenda.

On the motion of Mr. Eisele, seconded by Mr. Pohorylo, the Commission approved a schedule for monthly public meetings during 2006. The schedule will be forwarded to DOT for posting on the Commission's web page and filing with the Secretary of State.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The Commission met briefly in Executive Session, but did not take any action.

The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at DOT, State Pier, New London CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission