

**Connecticut Pilot Commission
Summary Report March 17, 2015 Public Meeting
New Haven Regional Fire Training Academy
230 Ella Grasso Blvd
New Haven, CT**

1.) The public meeting was called to Order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chairman, Bill Gash. Pilot Commission members: Mike Eisele, Phil Gaughran, Ralph Gogliettino and Dave Pohorylo were also present. Also attending were Charlie Jonas, Joseph P. Maco, Dave Rossiter, Alan T. Stevens, Tom Dubno, CAPT Ed Cubanski, LT Ayoub, Alex Woodworth.

2.) A motion was made to approve the summary report of the January 20, 2015 meeting by Mike Eisele and seconded by Ralph Gogliettino. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3.) Public Comments - None

4.) U.S. Coast Guard – CAPT Ed Cubanski reported that the domestic ice breaking situation was well under control with 1-2 inches remaining in some inland river areas and Long Island Sound clear of ice. Millions gallons of heating fuel are delivered every other day. Due to deployment of the CGC BOLLARD elsewhere, a CG cutter was diverted from NY to assist Sector LIS. At the height of the icing, there were 40 major federal aids to navigation reported off station, Long Island Sound froze completely for two (2) weeks, the Hudson River was limited to one way traffic, and daylight only operations were implemented in CT waterways. Keeping floating aids on station was a real challenge. CAPT Cubanski thanked the pilots for the accurate and timely reports to the USCG when federal aids were discovered missing or off station as well as limiting operations to daylight hours. CAPT Cubanski also reported that the Port Jefferson range was going to be reestablished and said it would be done with a range light (2 white lights) rather than day boards. Charlie Jonas requested the light be changed to red or green to better distinguish them from background lights. Capt Cubanski stated that the timeline is to contract this work in FY 2015 and for construction in FY 2016. The Captain and LT Ayoub reported that the M/V Panos Creation was currently detained in New Haven at the dock (Gateway Harbor Terminal) pending an inspection that found 38 deficiencies. The USCG is working with the class society and the flag state of the vessel to establish a critical action plan that will lead to compliancy. Details of the last port of call, next port of call and potential environmental concerns were discussed. Dave Pohorylo remarked about the soft charter market in Europe making spot charters in the USA more attractive.

5.) Connecticut Department of Transportation – Dave Rossiter reported that an ACOE survey of New London harbor would be available next week or shortly thereafter for the waterway including the area between the Admiral Shear State Pier and the CVRR Pier. The area adjacent the CVRR Pier was being checked due to the recent collapse and slough of material from the CVRR pier into the waters between the CVRR pier, and the Admiral Shear State Pier. Mr. Rossiter also stated that the survey should include accurate measurements between the recently driven sheet pile line on the east side of the CVRR pier and the fenders on the west side of the Admiral Shear State Pier. Mr. Rossiter provided an update on the repairs to the CVRR Pier. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Rossiter stated that ship arrivals at the State Pier have been averaging 1 every 2 to 3 weeks. Salt and steel have been the primary cargos. In response to a question from Phil Gaughran, Mr. Rossiter stated that the ACOE would provide copies of the survey charts first to the State Pier office as well as post the results on their web site. Mr. Rossiter was asked and agreed to let the pilot know when a paper copy arrived at the State pier office so it could be reviewed by the pilots.

6.) Continuing Business:

A. PORTS - Chairman Bill Gash reported that the Bond commission had approved bonding for a capital budget that would allow for the New Haven station to operate for the next 5 years and that New London and Bridgeport stations will be installed/updated and maintained for 5 years.

B. Changes to CGS Sec 15-13 – The Chairman read the proposed change to CGS 15-13 that would define an extension of route submitted to the ConnDOT by the CPC that the DOT had forwarded to the Legislature. The Chairman then read a proposed revision that was submitted via Attorney Kevin Reynolds on behalf of the CT pilots and reported that the revisions submitted by the pilots may still be able to get considered during the current legislative session. He asked Phil Gaughran and Charlie Jonas to explain why the changes to what the CPC submitted are necessary. Jonas indicated that the majority of the revisions involved plain language substitutions. He also indicated that there was a need to remove the 36 month limitation on the rides to be taken to obtain an extension of route. A lengthy discussion of the new revision and the problems with obtaining rides due to the reduced traffic took place. Mike Eisele suggests certain parts of the latest proposal could be put forward, but objects to a time restriction on the trips being considered be lifted. He reminded all that the proposal put forth by the CPC was crafted to mirror language in the statutes and regulations. He stated he didn't have issues with the plain language changes but did object to eliminating the time restrictions. He reminded all the state pilotage rules should be at least as stringent if not more so than federal requirements. Charlie Jonas replied that there isn't enough traffic to meet the trip requirements. He also stated that it would be a burden on the CT state licensed pilots to provide the supervision of the pilot seeking the extension of route. Charlie Jonas stated that only 4 of the 8 licensed pilots hold a license for the western end of the Sound. Dave Pohorylo questioned that if there is not enough traffic to get 6 round trips within 36 months why can't the 4 pilots with the license cover the work? A discussion between Dave and Charlie Jonas took place. Ralph Gogliettino asked if CT pilots could ride with NY pilots to get the required trips. Charlie Jonas responded that any NY licensed pilot is welcome to ride with any CT pilot for recency or familiarization but we do not allow Northeast applicants or candidates to ride with us because this privilege has been abused in the past. Further discussion resulted in a consensus that the majority of the plain language changes to the pilot proposal were acceptable but not the elimination of the time constraint. Eventually, Commissioner Eisele proposed a modified revision to Bill 6821 that changed all but one of the plain language changes and changed the the 36 month restriction to 60 month and made a motion to pass it on to ConnDOT. Dave Pohorylo provided a second. After another brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Draft Changes to CT State Agency Regulations – no discussion

D. Connecticut Port Authority Working Group – Chairman Gash recognizes Dave Pohorylo. Commissioner Pohorylo reports that the Working Group has finished a set of recommended steps in the form of a report to the legislature. Mr. Pohorylo stated that the report represented a lot of viewpoints and was complex but still managed to convey the action steps required. He stated that Commissioner Redeker expressed concerns about needing to rewrite all of the regulations particularly those related to pilotage because it's getting increasingly difficult to license pilots under the current regulations. Right now the port authority legislation is in the hands of the Legislature.

7.) New Business

A. Pilotage Training Fee – Phil Gaughran requested this item to be removed from the agenda as New Business. The fee is being collected and the distribution will take place when a pilot has an expense to bring forward which meets the criteria and will be reported that month by the Rotation Administrator.

B. Draft Investigative Processes for Incidents/Accidents – no discussion

C. Facility Access Notice to Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) – Chairman Gash asks Commissioner Gogliettino to provide an update. Mr. Gogliettino reports that there were major players in the industry that weighed in on this matter, including the API and AAPA, near the end of the comment period. The comment period is closed. The USCG will process the comments and consider them for a final rulemaking, but currently there is no further official communication required.

D. Election of a Vice Chairman – The Chairman stated that Chuck found in the regulations that the CPC shall elect a Vice Chairman. Dave Pohorylo stated that as previously discussed the members present at a meeting could elect a temporary vice chairman in the absence of the Chairman. The Chair questions why the item was put on the agenda since it was discussed 6 months or so ago. Mike Eisele read the appropriate passage from CGS 15-13c(d). The Chairman asked if anyone on the CPC thought it important to have a Vice Chairman then stated that it would be better to allow the Port Authority is to take action once established.

8.) Executive Session – None called.

9.) Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.

The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for **10:00 A.M. on Tuesday April 21, 2015 at the New Haven Fire Academy, 230 Ella Grasso Blvd. in New Haven, CT**
