



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of April 13, 2006 Public Meeting
Bridgeport Port Authority
330 Water Street, Bridgeport, CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:00 a.m. Pilot Commission members Vernon C. Miller, William Gash, David Pohorylo, and Captain Joseph Staneko were present. Also in attendance were Charles Beck, Alan Stevens, and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume (USCG), Captain Charles Jonas (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), Captain Ken Warner (Block Island Pilots), Captain Vince Cashin and Captain Bill Mulligan (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.) and Matthew Marion, Esq.

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the March 9, 2006 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved upon motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Mr. Pohorylo.

The minutes of the New York Board were not available for circulation.

There was no change in the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case. Briefing is complete and the parties await a decision.

Mr. Gash suggested the discussion of pending legislation be deferred until the time for comments by CT DOT.

There was a long and lively discussion of the ongoing attempt of the Connecticut Pilots to organize a unified Pilot Association, but it appears that they may have reached an impasse. Indeed, CT State Marine Pilots Association, Inc. has even asked this Commission, in a letter dated April 11, 2006, to adopt CSMIPA as the CT Pilot Association.

After listening to the viewpoints of several CT Pilots in attendance and receiving their assurance that a unified CT Pilot Association is still possible, Mr. Miller urged the CT Pilots and Mr. Marion, counsel to the CSMIPA, to try again to work out their differences and report back at the next meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Miller opened the discussion of the draft report of the subcommittee's evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance. Mr. Gash felt that it needed to be worded more strongly and offered to make what he deemed appropriate revisions and circulate it to the Commission members before the next meeting.

With respect to the pooling of docking fees and related issues, the Commission was advised on April 7 by Captain Warner, that a number of Pilots had entered into a sub-rotation of 3 weeks on and 2 weeks off to cover the turns allotted to the New York side and were pooling docking fees. Mr. Pohorylo raised concern that this may effectively negate the need for additional CT licensed Pilots.

Mr. Beck reported that Substitute Bill 5664, which replaced S.B. 519 (concerning the make-up and duties of the CT Pilot Commission) is pending. He clarified which of the various drafts has the final wording and expects the legislation will be acted upon this session which runs until May 3. He also reported that S.B. 521 (concerning the training of apprentice pilots) is still pending, but DOT does not support it. He expects this bill also will be acted upon this session.

Mr. Beck reported that the Walker hearing is proceeding, but he does not expect there will be a determination before the end of the summer.

Mr. Beck advised that the mileage rate payable to all CT Pilot Commissioners will not be available until after July 1 as the DOT has no funds for this purpose.

Mr. Rossiter reported that there had been an incident of a tug and barge hanging on at the State Pier. This is a violation of the security requirements at the State Pier, and, in the future, permission must be sought in advance or the matter will be reported to the State Police. In the course of the discussion that followed, Mr. Rossiter provided the telephone number for the guard house at State Pier (860-440-3172) and his own home number. This information will be provided to the public in a Notice to Mariners.

LCDR Alan Blume of the USCG reported that Coast Guard is writing its report on the Broadwater LNG project to FERC and expects to file it by early June.

He also reported that draft regulations regarding anchorages in Long Island Sound are in process, but will take months to complete.

LCDR Blume advised that NOAA's NRT 5 the SEA ARK will be in the area this summer for close in survey work in those areas in New Haven and New London which are already on the Coast Guard's list of suspect areas. If anyone has any other suspected shallow areas in Federal channels, they should advise USCG.

A WAMS will be conducted this summer for Plum Gut.

He also brought to the attention of the Commission an incident which arose during a USCG boarding of the NAPIER STAR in which, it was alleged, the pilot came close to being charged with interfering with a Boarding Officer in the performance of his duty. This elicited a comment from Captain Warner of a boarding incident in which the USCG Boarding Officer did not come to the bridge for 2 hours and 40 minutes after boarding. LCDR Blume will address this with his personnel.

The public meeting was adjourned at 09:04 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at the State Pier, New London, CT.

Respectfully submitted
Vernon C. Miller, Jr.
Vice Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission