



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



**Minutes of May 10, 2007 Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting**  
**State Pier**  
**New London, CT**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:00 a.m. Pilot Commission members Captain Vince Cashin, William Gash., Captain Charles Beck were present. There was a lack of a quorum, **thus the meeting was "informational"**.

At the request of Mr. Eisele Captain Beck served as the Chair. There were no minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of April available to circulate.

Since a quorum did not exist, there was no action taken on the minutes of the Commission's April 12, 2007 public meeting.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that the proposed increase in pilotage rates was still under review. A series of questions have been asked by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) concerning the fiscal impact of the loss of the 6% of the gross fees to the State Transportation Fund. Captain Warner advised the Commission that a parallel bill to increase LIS pilotage rates had been introduced in the New York legislature but that the increase in maximum units from 450 to 600 had received opposition from an ad hoc "Pilotage Committee" composed of a variety of steamship operators, port facility operators, etc. The ad hoc committee would approve an upper limit of 500 units.

Captain Beck reported that the draft Request for Proposals with respect to the management and operation of the Joint Rotation is still under review at DOT and will be released as soon as possible. Captain Walker read a statement of opposition to the RFP based on the State method of selecting contractors (i.e. lowest bidder) and the effect that could have on pilot safety. He was encouraged to submit his comments in writing to the Commission and DOT.

A letter drafted by Mr. Eisele to the DOT Commissioner recommending the establishment of a heavy weather pilot station inside Block Island Sound for use by vessels transiting Montauk Channel was reviewed. The heavy weather pilot station would be established by regulation, to consist of a circle of a 2.5 nautical mile radius centered at 41-10.0 N, 071-44.0 W, that boarding/disembarking be permitted at the heavy weather pilot station only when weather or sea conditions pose a threat to pilot and pilot boat safety at the existing Montauk Point pilot station, that the heavy weather boarding station only be used with the agreement of a vessel master and by vessels in compliance with Coast Guard navigational equipment requirements, and that pilots who board or disembark at any location other than the Point Judith or Montauk Point pilot stations be required to report to

DOT the circumstances justifying a deviation. The letter presently states that that there has not been any consultation with the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots. Captain Beck stated that he and Mr. Eisele were scheduled to meet with Mr. Robert Pouch, Executive Director of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots, on 18 May the result of which could alter the draft letter.

Captain Cashin stated that the subcommittee charged to review a proposal for an Apprenticeship program as well as other training and apprenticeship issues had nothing to report due to conflicting schedules. Captain Cashin made all aware of a new Coast Guard web site aimed at merchant mariners.

Dave Rossiter reported that the repair work on the Trelex Fenders at the State Pier had been completed. He cautioned pilots on the mooring of the "Star Ships" about the "belts" around their hulls having a propensity to catch the underside of the fenders. Captain Beck advised of a request of assistance to move a motorized barge from Beaufort, SC to New Haven, CT in June. He also advised that the bathometric survey of the waters surrounding the State Pier had been completed but that the final report had not been submitted yet. Lastly Captain Beck reported that the FY 2007 Port Security Grant awards had been released.

LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G. reported that the Coast Guard had received substantial input into its waterways and aids to navigation analysis for New Haven. Lcdr Blume further advised the Commission that a final Environmental Impact Statement for the Broadwater project was expected sometime this summer and that the Coast Guard was continuing its review of proposed regulations to establish a federal anchorage at New Haven. Lcdr Blume provided a summary of the reported "floating ordinance" operation that took place in Long Island Sound just south of Branford, CT on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The Commission was advised that CAPT Boynton's change of command and retirement ceremony is June 1, 2007. The incoming Sector Commander/COTP is Captain Daniel Ronan. Lcdr Blume stated that his last day before retirement is 15 June and that his relief, Lcdr Kevin Oditt would arrive in August. He further stated that the Sector Long Island Sound Executive Officer, CDR Plunkett, will be transferred in July.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. Since the meeting was informational only, the Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 0800 Thursday, June 14 at the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound office in New Haven CT.

Michael J. Eisele  
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission