



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of May 8, 2008 Connecticut Pilot Commission
Public Meeting
State Admin Building
New London, CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:07a.m by the Vice Chairman (Captain Barry) in the absence of the Chairman. Pilot Commission members, Captain Rick Barry, Captain Chuck Beck, Captain Vince Cashin, and Bill Gash were present. Also attending were Alan Stevens, Dave Rossiter, Captain Charlie Jonas, Captain Joseph Maco, Captain Bill Mulligan, Captain Keith Kelsey, Captain Paul Costabile, Captain Ken Warner and LCDR Kevin Oditt.

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of April were distributed.

Due to a lack of a quorum, no motion or vote on the minutes of the April 10, 2008 meeting could be made. The agenda was followed as an informational meeting.

Discussion on a fuel surcharge index was limited due to the absence of the project leader. The discussion held centered on the current pilot boat fuel surcharge. The current fuel surcharge is \$200 per embarkation/debarkation operation. The surcharge is due to expire on 31 July 2008. There is a 45 day public notice requirement to both extend/ raise the surcharge. Based on information on the current cost of fuel and distance traveled by pilot boats to the Montauk Point pilot transfer station, all present agreed that the current surcharge should be not only extended but increased by at least \$50.00 to \$250.00. CONNDOT will research how to implement the extension/increase without a recommendation from the CPC. The issue will be continued on the agenda.

An e-mail from Dave Pohorylo concerning establishing a training/equipment fund was read that stated he had arranged for a bill to be introduced in the next CT legislative session (2009). The issue will be continued on the agenda.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that CONNDOT continues to consider the Commission's recommendation that a heavy weather pilot station be established in Block Island Sound. However, no action is anticipated until after the new CONNDOT Commissioner reports for duty. The issue will be continued on the agenda.

Captain Beck provided a summary of the status of settlement discussions with pilots regarding alleged boarding/disembarkation violations. All but three CT licensed pilots have accepted offers made by the Department to resolve alleged violations. Hearings will be scheduled in the near future for the three pilots that did not accept the offer.

The Commission continued its development of the draft criteria for apprentice pilot selection and training. Captain Beck requested and received input on just how the information provided by Interport should be incorporated into the working draft document. The issue will be continued on the agenda.

Captain Paul Costabile was present and introduced. Captain Costabile is the Executive Director of the Northeast Marine Pilots. Part of his duties is to assist the Block Island Pilots as the Joint Rotation Administrator.

Captain Cashin lead a discussion on Master Pilot Exchange (MPX) cards. Samples of a card used by the CT State Marine Pilots Association as well as a card being used by the Sandy Hook Pilots were distributed for all to review. Captain Cashin's recommendation was that the CPC review and assist with developing an MPX card for CT licensed pilots.

As a result of conversations with the Chairman Mike Eisele, Captain Beck requested that CT Pilot Commissioners give thought to changing the day of the month that the Commission meetings are held. Moving the day would alleviate anticipated conflicts with other meetings. A suggestion was made to change the meeting day from the second Thursday of each month to the second Wednesday of each month. The four Commissioners present did not have a problem with the suggestion. It was agreed that due to the notification process and the lack of a quorum, the decision would be deferred to the June meeting with possible implementation of the change in September 2008.

Mr. Rossiter raised an issue related to the quarterly financial reports that are submitted by the Joint Rotation Administrator to the State of Connecticut. The issue dealt with the percentage of fees paid by CT and NY licensed pilots. Captain Costabile will look into the matter and contact Mr. Rossiter.

Captain Beck advised that the language of former SB 302 "An Act Concerning Harbor Improvement Projects" (also known as the dredging bill) was passed by the CT legislature. He also advised that removal/cutting of old pilings discovered along the east face of the State Pier would be accomplished the week of 12 May 2008.

LCDR Kevin Oditt provided an update on the Transportation Workers Identification Credentials (TWIC) card program. The deadline for obtaining a card has been extended from September 2008 to 15 April 2009. LCDR Oditt also provided a briefs on the recently held Area Maritime Security Committee meeting, the Harbor Safety Committee meeting, steps being taken to consummate an MOU/MOA between the New York Board of Commissioners and CG Sector Long Island Sound relative to accident investigations and the proposed anchorage areas in the Sound. One issue he anticipated having heavy pilot involvement on is the establishment of a heavy weather advisory group.

Captain Cashin provided information on a close encounter he experienced with a small boat while piloting a vessel from New Haven towards the Race. The small boat kept pace with the vessel and crossed the bow deliberately several times. Captain Cashin notified the CG via channel 16 who dispatched a small boat from Station /New London.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The informational meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the CG Sector Long Island Sound office in New Haven.

Richard Barry
Vice-Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission