



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of June 8, 2006 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
US Coast Guard, Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:10 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Miller. Pilot Commission members Vernon C. Miller, Jr., David Shuda, and Capt. Joseph Staneko were present. Also in attendance were Charles Beck, Dave Rossiter, and Alan Stevens (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume (USCG), Captain Michael Ball (Block Island Pilots), Captain Charles Jonas and Captain Ted Melancon (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), and Captain Vince Cashin (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.).

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the May 11, 2006 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Captain Staneko, seconded by Mr. Shuda.

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

Mr. Miller advised that there was no news on the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case.

Mr. Miller received conflicting reports as to whether or not the Governor has signed Substitute Senate Bill 5664. It is anticipated that the Governor will sign the bill.

It was reported that efforts to organize a unified Pilot Association have not yet borne fruit.

Consideration of revisions to the draft evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance was postponed pending receipt of the revised draft from Mr. Gash.

The pilots will re-submit an outline of the previously proposed apprenticeship program for review by the Commission. It was pointed out that such a program is tied closely to consideration of a pilotage rate increase which has been on the table for quite some time.

The pilots requested an extension of the fuel surcharge. Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Shuda and seconded by Captain Staneko that the fuel surcharge be extended for 6 months and increased to \$200 per pilot boarding. The Commission will send a letter to DOT recommending this increase and extension.

Captain Beck advised the Commission and pilots that there is a good deal of interest at the Connecticut Maritime Commission regarding various dredging projects, which are moving ahead. In connection with the survey at the State Pier in New London, he reported that a bathymetric survey will be completed in the near future. Disposal of dredge spoils remains a primary issue.

Mr. Rossiter advised the Commission and pilots of the status of the survey of New Haven Harbor, in particular the need to determine if a 22 foot spot shown on the chart actually exists or not. The survey of the area needs to be done with side scan radar and the results submitted to NOAA for evaluation before any change to the charted depth or Notice to Mariners can be issued. He and LCDR Blume reiterated that the Coast Guard is not authorized to make this change.

Mr. Stevens reported that mileage reimbursement for Commissioners is in the works and he will clarify how this will be handled in the future.

LCDR Blume reminded the pilots that before a vessel can be cleared for entry into Long Island Sound, an Advance Notice of Arrival must be submitted for approval. Vessels are not permitted to enter LIS unless approval is given. As a practical matter, the dispatcher should not send a pilot to the vessel until the vessel is cleared for entry.

LCDR Blume also thanked the pilots for their assistance in bringing to the attention of the Coast Guard a vessel which had reduced visibility from the bridge as a result of obstructions caused by the vessel's deck cranes. This led to an inspection by the Coast Guard and the imposition of Captain of the Port Restrictions on the vessel's movements.

LCDR Blume also spoke of the seriousness of submitting the 96 hour Notice of Arrival less than 96 hours prior to arrival. The Coast Guard has no discretion to waive the 96 hour rule.

LCDR Blume advised that the Safety and Security Report for the Broadwater LNG project will be submitted to FERC next week. FERC will then submit a draft Environmental Impact Statement for comment. Broadwater hopes for a decision by FERC in early 2007.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 13, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at the CT Department of Transportation, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT.

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