



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of June 12, 2008 Connecticut Pilot Commission
Public Meeting
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:08a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Captain Rick Barry, Bill Gash, John Love, Joe Russo, and Dave Shuda were present. Also attending were Alan Stevens and Dave Rossiter of CDOT; Captain Daniel Ronan, U.S.C.G.; LCDR Kevin Oditt, U.S.C.G.; LT Kristen M. Schroeder, U.S.C.G.R. and Captain Charlie Jonas.

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

On the motion of Captain Barry, seconded by Mr. Love, the minutes of the April 10 and May 8, 2008 public meetings were approved unanimously. Mr. Eisele noted that a quorum was not present at the May 8 meeting.

The Commission reviewed CDOT's May 21, 2008 Solicitation of Comments with respect to the increase of the Temporary Fuel Surcharge to \$250 and extension of the surcharge to January 31, 2009. On the motion of Mr. Eisele, seconded by Mr. Russo, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to CDOT that the fuel surcharge be increased and extended as proposed. Mr. Eisele will prepare a letter to CDOT in accordance with the Commission's decision.

Mr. Love lead a discussion regarding incorporation of a fuel surcharge index into the pilot rate structure. Mr. Love will draft a recommendation for the Commission's consideration at the July public meeting.

Mr. Gash reported on efforts to create a training and certification fund. Mr. Gash, Captain Beck, and Mr. Pohorylo will continue work on various concepts and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Eisele circulated a May 7, 2008 letter from the Rhode Island Pilotage Commission to CDOT in opposition to the establishment of a heavy weather pilot station in Block Island Sound. The Rhode Island Commission also urged that use of Montauk Channel be discontinued. No action was taken. The issue will be continued on the agenda.

Mr. Eisele reported that several CT licensed pilots have accepted offers made by the Department to resolve alleged boarding violations. Hearings are expected to be scheduled in the near future for the three pilots that did not accept similar offers.

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The Commission continued its development of the draft criteria for apprentice pilot selection and training. Captain Barry will continue work on the document with the intention of presenting a final proposal for action by the Commission at its September, 2008 public meeting.

Mr. Eisele noted that the terms of several Commissioners have expired or are soon-to-expire and requested that the Commissioners contact their respective appointing authorities.

Mr. Eisele noted that the second step of the three-year pilotage rate structure will be implemented on July 20, 2008. The Commission discussed issue of fees for shifts from anchorage or lightering zones to the platforms or sea buoys. This item will be continued on the agenda.

Mr. Rossiter reported that debris removal had been completed in the vicinity of State Pier and that private surveys had been conducted in anticipation of calls by Saga Forest Carriers vessels. In addition, the passenger ship EXPLORER OF THE SEAS will make a call at State Pier on July 4.

LCDR Oditt reported that the New Haven TWIC center had opened and that TWIC compliance in New England ports might be required before the national implementation date in April, 2009. In addition, LCDR Oditt advised the Commission that the Coast Guard was continuing efforts to codify anchorage and lightering zones and would welcome input from pilots before the formal comment period begins. LCDR Oditt also briefed the Commission on the formation of a Heavy Weather Advisory Group which will work with the Coast Guard on port closure and related issues.

Captain Jonas informed the Commission that Northville Industries was discussing with pilots the possibility of resuming tanker calls at Port Jefferson.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. At the invitation of LCDR Oditt, the Commission toured Sector Long Island Sound's new facilities, including a briefing on the capabilities of the Rescue 21 Command, Control and Communications system.

The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission