



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



**Minutes of September 13, 2007 Connecticut Pilot Commission
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 Michael Eisele, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Richard Barry, Captain Vince Cashin, and David Pohorylo were present along with CDOT staff members Alan Stevens and Dave Rossiter. Also attending were Captain J. Maco, Captain Bill Mulligan, Captain Rich Astles, Captain Keith Kelsey, and LCDR Kevin Oditt, U.S.C.G.

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of July and August were circulated for review.

On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Barry, the minutes of the Commission's July 12, 2007 public meeting were approved as drafted by a unanimous vote. The Commission did not meet in August.

The Commission reviewed a draft Notice of Intent to increase pilotage rates which CDOT will publish in the September 18, 2007 edition of the Connecticut Law Journal, beginning a thirty day public comment period. As a result of a compromise with the Office of Policy and Management, CDOT will not seek to amend the regulations to establish a dedicated training and certification fund and pilots will continue to be assessed a fee of 6% of gross revenues. CDOT's Notice of Intent will include a 600 unit maximum Long Island Sound rate, as previously recommended by the Commission. However, the rate increase recently implemented by the New York Board limits the maximum LIS charge to 500 units. On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Barry, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that CDOT limit the maximum LIS charge to 500 units to conform to the New York rate structure. Mr. Eisele will forward this recommendation to CDOT. The Commission also discussed a provision in the draft Notice of Intent relating to docking fees, but took no action.

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 CDOT and will be released as soon as possible.

Mr. Eisele reported on informal discussions with members of the New York Board regarding the designation of a heavy weather pilot station in Block Island Sound. Captain Beck and Mr. Eisele will plan to attend a public meeting of the New York Board to continue discussions regarding a heavy weather station as soon as a visit can be scheduled.

Captain Barry and Captain Cashin presented draft criteria for apprentice pilot selection and training. The Commission will review this draft and provide comments to the subcommittee.

Connecticut Pilot Commission Minutes

The Commission reviewed a draft Annual Report (7/1/06 – 7/1/07) prepared by Mr. Eisele. On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Cashin, the Commission approved the report as drafted. Mr. Eisele will finalize and distribute the report.

Captain Cashin reported that he and Captain Maco had piloted the *Explorer of the Seas* on its maiden call to New London. The ship is expected to make three more calls during 2007.

The Commission discussed the election of a Vice-Chair. In light of the absence of four Commissioners, this issue will be tabled until the Commission's October public meeting.

Dave Rossiter advised that a condition survey of depths at State Pier commissioned by CDOT was available for review and that a July, 2007 survey of Bridgeport Harbor by the Army Corps of Engineers was also available for review. Captain Beck reported that CDOT has begun the process for pilot license renewals.

The Commission welcomed LCDR Oditt, who has relieved LCDR Alan Blume as Chief, Prevention Department, Sector Long Island Sound. LCDR Oditt commented on the call of the *Explorer of the Seas*, including criteria for tug assistance. LCDR Oditt also discussed the use of Letters of Deviation and avenues of communication between the Coast Guard and the pilotage community. Finally, LCDR Oditt advised the Commission that the Sector is establishing a Harbor Safety Committee and a Heavy Weather Advisory Committee and invited industry and pilot participation on those committees.

The Commission met in Executive Session beginning at 9:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue, but did not take any action.

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 11 at the CDOT Office of Water Transportation, State Pier, New London.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission