



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of February 9, 2006 Public Meeting
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Ave., New Haven CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:28 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, William Gash, David Pohorylo, and Captain Joseph Staneko were present. Also in attendance were Richard Jaworski, Alan Stevens, and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G., Captain Charles Jonas, Captain Ted Melancon, and Captain Michael A. Peszke (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), Captain Ken Warner and Captain Mike Ball (Block Island Pilots), Captain Ted Sanford and Captain Vince Cashin (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.), and Jeff Zyjeski, Esq.

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the January 12, 2006 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Gash.

The minutes of the New York Board were not available for circulation. Mr. Eisele will provide the New York Board's minutes at the March public meeting.

Mr. Eisele reported on the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case. Briefing has been completed and the parties await a decision.

Mr. Eisele reported that the Commission's November 28, 2005 recommendation regarding a 180 day fuel surcharge was implemented by DOT effective February 1, 2006. The New York Board implemented an identical surcharge for the same period. It was reported that the fuel surcharge will not be applied to the City Island pilot boat.

Mr. Eisele reported that the Coast Guard has implemented a route extension in the western Long Island Sound, permitting pilots to obtain a pilotage endorsement to the Throgs Neck Bridge.

Captain Jonas reported on continuing efforts to form a unified association for the pilots working on the Connecticut side of the rotation. Captain Jonas advised the Commission that several pilots were interested in retaining Mr. Miller to advise them on the formation of the association. The Commission discussed possible conflicts issues arising out of this retention. Mr. Eisele will communicate with the Ethics Commission to obtain an informal advisory opinion regarding the applicability of the Code of Ethics.

Mr. Gash reviewed the status of the Commission's November 28, 2005 recommendation to DOT regarding proposed legislation to change the authority

and composition of the Pilot Commission. DOT will be unable to include the proposal in its legislative package for the current session. With DOT's support, Mr. Gash is soliciting sponsorship for the bill.

The Commission discussed making a recommendation to DOT to lift the long-standing license moratorium. This issue will be continued on the docket.

The Commission discussed the status of its evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance. Mr. Miller will lead this effort with assistance from Mr. Gash and Mr. Shuda.

The Commission discussed reports of vessel movements while lightering at anchorage. No complaints have been received from the pilots concerning this practice. The Commission will continue to monitor the situation.

The Commission discussed the process for considering pilotage rate issues. Mr. Eisele will request information from the Joint Administrator with respect to the number of vessel movements, revenues, and expenses for 2004 and 2005 for review at the March public meeting.

Captain Jonas distributed news reports of the loss of a Hawaii pilot while disembarking a vessel.

Mr. Eisele reported that the Rotation Executive Board scheduled a hearing for February 10 to consider several issues involving Captain Walker.

Captain Cashin circulated a proposed legislative bill to establish a compulsory apprenticeship program. The proposed bill will be reviewed by the Commission.

Mr. Rossiter reported that DEP is soliciting public comments (until 3/7/06) on a proposal to remove and replace existing fender systems on the Thames River railroad bridge piers as part of Amtrak's project to replace the bascule section with an elevator lift bridge.

LCDR Blume reported that the Coast Guard formed a working group to monitor the Thames River Bridge project and that the Broadwater application had been submitted to FERC. The Coast Guard is working on completing its evaluation of the Broadwater project.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at DOT Headquarters, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission