



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of July 13, 2006 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:15 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele and Captain Charles Beck were present. Also in attendance were Richard Jaworski and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), LTJG Douglas Miller, U.S.C.G. (Chief, Waterways Management Division, Sector Long Island Sound), Captain Michael Ball and Captain Ken Warner (Block Island Pilots), Captain Vince Cashin (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.), Captain Ted Melancon (Interport Pilots), and Jeff Zjeski (Gaffney, Bennett & Assoc.).

Due to the lack of a quorum, no business was conducted. The Commission held an informational meeting.

The minutes of the New York Board were circulated for review.

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

Captain Beck reported that the Governor has signed Substitute Bill 5664, which amends Section 15-13c of the General Statutes concerning the composition and authority of the Pilot Commission. Those amendments, which were immediately effective, add a DOT representative and a pilot representative to the Pilot Commission. Captain Beck presented the Commission with a letter from DOT Commissioner Korta designating him as DOT's representative on the Commission. Mr. Eisele welcomed Captain Beck to the Commission.

Mr. Eisele noted that pursuant to 15-13c(b), the pilot representative must be a Connecticut resident and is to be elected by a vote of the eight pilots participating on the Connecticut side of the rotation. Captain Cashin volunteered to distribute ballots to those pilots, to be returned to Mr. Eisele. Mr. Eisele will tally the votes and advise of the results.

Captain Beck asked that the Commission hold a special meeting in July or early August to discuss (1) the Commission's evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance; (2) implementation of an apprentice program; (3) a recommendation with respect to pilotage rates. Mr. Eisele will consult with the Commission members to determine a date for the meeting, which will require public notice.

Mr. Eisele noted that Captain Staneko's term expired on June 30, 2006. Mr.

Eisele will contact Captain Staneko to determine whether he will seek reappointment.

Mr. Eisele distributed a letter from the Transportation Strategy Board seeking input with respect to the Board's 2003 report, including any suggested changes or additions to the Board's strategy and recommendations. Captain Beck agreed to review the 2003 report and advise the Commission of his conclusions.

Mr. Eisele delivered a written recommendation to DOT regarding an extension and increase of the temporary fuel surcharge based on the Commission's vote at the June 8, 2006 public meeting. The Commission recommended that the fuel surcharge be continued another 180 days (to January 31, 2007) and that it be increased from \$150 to \$200 per boarding or disembarkation. Captain Beck circulated a request from the Joint Administrator, also seeking an extension of the fuel surcharge and an increase to \$200. Mr. Jaworski then provided the Commission with a letter authorizing the Joint Administrator to continue to assess the \$150 fuel surcharge until January 31, 2007. DOT also accepted the Commission's recommendation to increase the fuel surcharge. However, an increase in the fuel surcharge requires public notice and a comment period. DOT will begin that process.

Captain Warner advised the Commission that the Joint Administrator has completed its compilation of information regarding pilotage fees, expenses, distributions, and the number of pilotage assignments during 2004 and 2005 in response to the Commission's request. That information will be provided shortly.

Mr. Eisele distributed a June 16, 2006 Final Opinion and Order from the New York Board concerning the grounding of the M/T FASE for the information of the pilots.

Mr. Eisele advised the Commission that he would prepare a draft Annual Report of the Commission's activities for the period July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006.

The Commission reviewed the Connecticut Maritime Commission's July 3, 2006 letter to the Captain of the Port concerning the establishment of designated anchorage areas at New Haven and Bridgeport and Captain Boynton's July 12 response. LTJG Miller reported that a draft regulation is under review and is expected to be published in the Federal Register within six months. The Commission will review that regulation and provide its comments to the Coast Guard.

Captain Beck reported that an issue had arisen concerning the carrying of handguns by pilots. DOT has advised the Joint Administrator that pilots are prohibited from carrying weapons of any kind while on state property, including State Pier, even if otherwise licensed. LTJG Miller advised the Commission that a similar prohibition exists on federal property, including Sector Long Island

Sound, and that the security plans of certain privately-owned facilities or vessels may also prohibit the carrying of weapons. DOT asked the Joint Administrator to advise all pilots of the State's policy concerning the carrying of weapons on state property. Captain Beck will investigate whether DOT has the ability to regulate the carrying of licensed weapons by pilots engaged in pilotage duties.

LTJG Miller advised the Commission of the status of the Broadwater LNG application, the authority of Connecticut harbormasters under state law, and a report made by a Connecticut pilot of a close-quarters situation in the Race involving a sailing yacht. The Coast Guard was unable to identify the offending yacht.

The public meeting was concluded at 8:55 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at the Bridgeport Port Authority, 330 Water Street, Bridgeport CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission