Connecticut Pilot Commission Regular Public Meeting

November 20, 2018

New Haven Regional Fire Training Academy

New Haven, CT

Meeting Minutes - Draft

1. Call to Order – The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Gash at 09:03 am.

CPC members in Attendance: Bill Gash, Captain Charles Beck, Ralph Gogliettino, Wynn Bohonon, Mike Eisele, Dave Pohyrolo, Captain Mike Peszke

CPC Members Absent: Chris Clark

Port Authority Staff: Joe Salvatore

Public: Captain Charlie Jonas, Captain Donald Toby, Captain Sean Meade, Captain Paul Constable, USCG Cmdr.Maureen Johnson, Tom Leblanc

1. Summary Report – Approval of the October 2018 meeting summary.

 Motion: Eisele

 Second: Beck Approved

 Abstained: Mike Eisele, Dave Pohyrolo

1. Public Comments – Captain Jonas discussed how difficult it is to get qualified for Bridgeport Harbor due to the lack of commerce. On average it can take up to 36-months to attain the required trips for an extension of route. It was asked if the Commission could look into providing an exemption to qualified/experienced current CT Licensed Pilots. Captain Jonas stated that the USCG will allow trips on the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry as long as the tonnage meets the requirement. Also the trips would have to be observed by a CT Licensed Pilot.

 Ship calls into Bridgeport Harbor: 2017 (3), 2018 (1) Requiring Pilots

1. U.S. Coast Guard – LT Maureen Johnson reported the Thames River north of the I-95 Bridge as a Pilotage Route was never codified on paper for an approved extension of route. The USCG is now working with the CT Pilots to establish this as a new route to include testing requirements. The USCG is now trying to rectify by setting agreeable protocols for pilotage.

1. Continuing Business
2. Rotation System Executive Board (RSEB) – Paul Constable stated nothing to report.
3. New Business
4. Legislation – Policy Review of Foreign Yacht (200-FT) L.O.A Interpretation.

A point of discussion took place relative to a Yacht that transited through Long Island Sound to Greenwich Harbor. The yacht registry had the LOA under 200’, the plate had the vessel over 200’. The new CPC legislation does not indicate the appropriate method for determining LOA of a vessel. It was discussed and approved to use the Certificate of Documentation for the LOA for yachts.

Motion: Beck

Second: Bohonon Approved

1. Exemption – Extension of Route Bridgeport Harbor.

Connecticut Regulations require 6-round trips with a Senior CT Licensed Pilot observing the transits.

To attain an extension of route it must be completed within a 36-month period, 6-round trips.

Any vessel under enrollment regardless of tons can be utilized for the trips. A CT Licensed Pilot must already have the waters of Long Island Sound and 1-Harbor in order to receive an extension of route.

The Pilot of Record (doing the work) must have an observing senior CT Licensed Pilot onboard the vessel.

Discussion turned to the use of the Bridgeport Port Jefferson Ferry for the required trips. Currently the ferry is used for observation only and not actual operation of the vessel. This would count only for recency for the harbor. It was noted that the private ownership of the ferry would not allow an outside person to operate the vessel. The Captain of record wouldn’t allow also.

A discussed solution would be to ask the Legislature to remove the requirement to have a CT Licensed Pilot to “operate” vessel verse observer only with a Senior CT Licensed Pilot on board.

USCG requires “observe” on bridge at all time for an extension of route for a federal license.

Mike Eisele volunteered to write something up for the next meeting to review and discuss for a possible legislative change next session.

 CT Licensed Pilots for Bridgeport Harbor: Captains Mulligan, T. Sanford, Walker, Jonas and Captain Peszke transit on his federal license.

1. Executive Session – None Required
2. Adjourn – 9:56 AM Motion: Bohonon, 2nd Eisele

**Next Meeting:**

9:00 AM Tuesday, January 15, 2019

 New Haven Regional Fire Training Facility

 200 Ella Grasso Blvd., New Haven, CT 06502