

Connecticut Pilot Commission Regular Public Meeting
Tuesday July 17th, 2018
New Haven Regional Training Academy
New Haven, CT

Summary Report
Draft – Not approved

1. Call to Order – The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Gash at 09:00 am. Sign in sheets were provided. In addition to the Chairman, the following CPC members attended: Charles Beck, Mike Peszke, Wynne Bohannon, Dave Pohyrola, Mike Eisele. Also in attendance were: Joe Salvatore and Reese Mitchell.
2. Summary Report – May 2018 meeting summary approved. (Dave Pohyrola abstained)
3. Public Comments – Reese Mitchell introduced himself. Wynne Bohannon suggested that he attend the CPC meeting.
4. U.S. Coast Guard – CDR Maureen Johnson, USCG, of SECTOR LIS was introduced and asked to pass on any information that SECTOR LIS has for the CPC. CDR Johnson was also told that the discussion planned under continuing business will include further discussion based on a recent report from a marine pilot regarding recreational traffic encroaching on the shipping channel at a critical point. CDR Johnson responded that she was aware of the concern and had reviewed email that had been passed recently. CDR Johnson briefed the commission on recent (summer time) and ongoing response action and preventative action taken by SECTOR LIS. There is a strong outreach mission to a broad variety of stakeholders by USCG, DEEP, and other water safety groups focused on the growing waterway usage by kayak and SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) operators. Many of these operators have minimal training, and for many, this is their first time out on the waterways. CDR Johnson noted that this message is of life and death importance and by getting out to the marinas, retailers, kayak rental stores and boat launches the operators will be exposed to proper and safe operating procedures which will lead to more enjoyable and safe waterways.
5. Continuing Business
 - A. Apprentice Pilot Updates – Mike Peszke reported again that Sean Meade is still on track to submit an application this summer.
 - B. Rotation System Executive Board (RSEB) - RSEB has not met.
 - C. New Haven Kayak / recreational Vessel Traffic - Chairman Gash opened the discussion and was joined by several commissioners, CDR Johnson and Joe Salvatore. The discussion produced some meaningful dialog and information on meetings that had taken place where this issue was discussed. Commissioner Peszke confirmed that a Security call is given on the VHF when a commercial vessel under pilotage is entering New Haven Harbor channel. CDR Johnson pointed out that vessels under a certain size are not equipped with VHF, and Security calls can be missed by recreational vessels. USCG is always monitoring VHF from the SECTOR command center. The discussion pointed out that there is a big difference between the recreational fishing vessels out by the breakwater entrance, and the SUP and kayak traffic that may develop in closer to the marine terminals. Several suggestions were made on continuing education and outreach for the increasing number of kayak and SUP operators expected in New Haven harbor

due to the recent opening of the relocated boathouse. CDR Johnson provided an organizational breakdown for the boathouse and explained that although it will be operated by a private entity, there is also a lot of space reserved for the public to launch vessels and visit on a transient basis. CDR Johnson emphasized that pilots should hail USCG on the VHF whenever they were concerned about the safety of navigation in New Haven harbor and the approaches, including large groups of kayaks getting close to the channel.

6. Executive Session – n/a
7. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 09:22 am.