

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Rhode Island State Pilotage Commission
Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908**

**Proposed minutes of the RI State Pilotage Commission Meeting
Held at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island
on September 10, 2009**

Members in attendance:

Michael Scanlon, Chair

Captain J. Peter Fritz, Member

Captain E. Howard McVay, Jr.; Member

Larry Mouradjian, Member

Others in attendance:

Gary Powers, Legal Counsel to the Commission

Joanne Scorpio, Recording Secretary

Captain Paul Costabile, Ex. Dir., NMP

Captain Joseph Maco, President, NMP

Ed LeBlanc, USCG

Evan Matthews, EDC

Quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. The minutes of the June 11, 2009 meeting were approved by assent.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Block Island Pilot Station:

1. P. Fritz brought up concerns about the B.I. pilot station because of the proposed location.

2. Ed LeBlanc from USCG Sector Southeast passed out charts with proposed routes for Montauk Channel and RI sound. Comments will be solicited from the public; there will be a federal register notice and the Dept. of Economic Development will put out a bulletin. Mr. LeBlanc went on to state that moving the pilot station will not be considered.

3. M. Scanlon stated that he would like to discourage routine use of the travel lanes.

B. NOAA Proposed changes to Block Island Sound charts:

1. M. Scanlon stated that plans to change the travel lanes from green to magenta on the charts are on hold at this time. Another addition to the charts he opposes is adding the ferry routes.

C. Russian Submarine Update:

1. H. McVay stated that the sub has been moved and is at Metals Recycling to be scrapped. Notice has been put out to other mariners about the location of the submarine. He also stated that Ed Gabbier who has a lease with an option to buy the land and would like to use the land north of Motiva to bring barges in for scrap and do more with car carriers. Mr. Scabia wants to meet and discuss possibility of a Start-up facility hoping to get a contract with Short Sea Shipping.

D. Status of Two-way Channel:

1. P. Fritz inquired about the two-way channel and is waiting for a decision from the Admiral.

2. M. Scanlon and Ed LeBlanc confirmed that the new admiral has not made a decision to date.

E. Pilot Apprentice update:

1. H. McVay stated that Sean Bogus has been tested for his Block Island Sound license. He was examined June 12, 2009 and has passed. He has since acquired his license for Narragansett Bay as well.

F. Medical Forms:

1. M. Scanlon stated that there will be a new medical evaluation form for the Merchant Mariners. The new forms will be ready for use in near future.

2. M. Scanlon stated that the commission added an addendum for the pilot's medical form whereas the physician now has to sign off confirming the pilot's ability to perform his/her duties.

G. LORAN:

1. P. Fritz inquired the phase out for the LORAN and also stated that the lines are congesting the charts.

2. Ed LeBlanc stated that that there was no federal funding for the transition, but however, is still in debate.

H. LNG Terminal:

1. Ed LeBlanc (USCG) stated that community and local officials of the proposed LNG terminal have criticized Captain Perry (Coast Guard) for defending the terminal's safety.

II. New Business

A. Pilot Rates

1. M. Scanlon stated that he will discuss with the Commission a new pilotage rate for registered yachts. A request came from Northeast Marine Pilots Ex. Director Paul Costabile because of a circumstance in Newport this summer. According to current regulations, a registered yacht meeting the requirements to have a pilot placed onboard must pay the minimum rate for pilotage services each time the boat leaves the dock and then another fee when re-entering. The commission wants to implement a fixed rate that would eliminate multiple costly fees for registered yachts that are docked for a duration of time and that exit and enter their boat regularly. M. Scanlon stated that he will look into how NY and NJ have implemented their pilotage fees for such circumstances, and that he would pursue a reduced rate.

B. Annual election of a chairman:

1. Mike Scanlon was voted in by the Commission and will be chairperson of the RI Pilotage Commission for 2009-2010.

III. Public Comments:

A. Pilot Apprentice Program:

1. M. Scanlon interviewed candidates for entry into the pilotage program. He advised that the Commission should attend all interviews.

2. The Commission discussed with Pilot Training Board members that they will notify individuals in the apprenticeship program who are showing unsatisfactory performance in their skills and that need to improve. The Commission also discussed making revisions to the evaluation form and giving a timeline to complete apprentice training.

B. Status of Statutory pilots.

1. M. Scanlon advised the Commission to review legal status of statutory pilots.

C. Buoy 13:

1. Ed LeBlanc (USCG) stated that Buoy 13 which has been an obstruction for vessels traveling in Davisville will be moved to the apex at Gould Island. It will also be relabeled as a junction buoy and lighted.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Scheduled Meeting

The Commission plans to hold its next regularly scheduled meeting in the conference room of the Division of Law Enforcement at DEM headquarters located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI on October 2, 2009 starting at approximately 9:30 a.m.