

APPROVED MINUTES

RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

November 3, 2011

held at 235 Promenade Street, Room 250

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. E. Howard McVay Jr., Chair

Capt. J. Peter Fritz, Member

Chief Steve Hall, Member

Larry Mouradjian, Member; excused from attendance

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. Richard Astles, Northeast Marine Pilots

Joanne Scorpio, Recording Secretary

Ed LeBlanc, USCG

Tom Sullivan, Moran Shipping

Capt. Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NEMP

Lt. James Pritchard, USCG

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. Commissioners reviewed October 2011 minutes. Member Chief Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting. Member Capt. Fritz seconded the

motion. The minutes were approved 2-0 in favor.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. State Pilot ID Badge Update - Commissioners and pilots will contact Off. Jen Ogren to schedule an appointment to have their picture ID taken.

B. Review of RI Statute §46-9-7 – (Qualifications for Original License) Chair McVay distributed copies of the state statute for their review and discussions. Commissioners agreed that the language will remain as currently written.

C. 1) Americas Cup - Ed LeBlanc (USCG) addressed the commissioners and gave an update on the Cup. He advised that the requirements for the races are still ongoing and that they should be held each afternoon somewhere between Castle Hill and the Newport Bridge. He advised that it should not impact commercial travel on the bay and that the Coast Guard will prepare a written plan for review by January 1, 2012.

2) Tall Ships – will take place right after the Cup for 3 or 4 days in July. Ed LeBlanc stated that it should have minimal impact on the waterways. None of the wharfs, piers, or Class A tall ships have committed to any of the dates so far.

3) Block Island Wind Farm – There are plans to build a five-tower

wind farm within 3 miles southeast of Block Is. in state waters. The USCG will keep the pilots and Commissioners informed of any updates on the plans.

4) Newport Anchorage – NEMP proposed to expand the Newport Anchorage under federal regulation. Ed LeBlanc stated that the deadline for comments was Oct 27 but no comments were ever submitted. The regulation will be processed for final publication.

5) Sinking of Barge - Ed LeBlanc reported that the barge sinking has not caused any hazards to the waterways in the Bay.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Chair McVay stated that Capt. Skip Bracy officially retired from the NEMP on Monday, October 31, 2011.

B. Member Capt. Fritz advised the Commissioners on the new proposed USCG regulation changes for the master mariner's license. He went on to state that the Coast Guard wants to lower the standards of requirements so more licenses can be issued. Capt .Fritz voiced his concerns and said that reducing the standards of a master's license will have an impact on the capabilities of potential pilots coming into the apprentice programs. He requested submitting a letter to the Coast Guard. Capt. Fritz made a motion to draft a letter to address the new Coast Guard proposed changes to US licensing regulations. Member Chief Hall seconded the motion.

Voted 2-0 in favor. Chair McVay stated that he will begin drafting the letter.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive session

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

VI. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The RI Pilot Commission plans to hold the next regular monthly meeting in the conference room of the Division of Law Enforcement at DEM headquarters located at 235 Promenade Street, Rm. 250, Providence, RI on Thursday, December 1, 2011 starting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.