



CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting January 20, 2010

Steven G. M. Biro, chairperson, called the meeting to order.

In attendance were:

Steven G. M. Biro, US Coast Guard Auxiliary; Sue Weeks, CBFN; Sandra Pierog, US Power Squadron; Jean Trapani, Paddlers Network; Robert Crook, CCS; Grant Westerson, CMTA; Eleanor Mariani, CT DEP; Mark Chanski, , CT DEP; John Annino, CT DEP; and the following guests: REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA OLSEN (Deputy Majority Leader, co-chair for screening committee – from Norwich); RICHARD ZICTORAC; JEAN MILLER.

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Dick Zitora stated that he wants to change law to AMEND Safe Boating Certificate requirement for boat rentals (livery dealers) by repealing 15-140e-4 section d) 4 only as it applies to instate residents or owners of land in CT (the result being that for boats only, INSTATE RESIDENTS OR CT PROPERTY OWNERS MUST HAVE BOATING CERTIFICATES TO RENT AND OPERATE BOATS)

The BAC supported his proposal unanimously (except for the chair's abstention) with the following provisos:

- (1) The repeal to apply only to instate residents or Ct property owners,
- (2) The repeal be effective not before the second October after enactment,
- (3) Reciprocity all states out of state residents holding safe boating certificates issued by their state,
- (4) In lieu of holding a safe boating certificate, persons could operate rented boats by purchasing 7-day durational package after passing a "miniexam". The amount of any fees for such package would be discussed at a later time.

After the guests departed, the following was transacted:

Minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Eleanor Mariani discussed the status of current legislation which swept \$7,000,000 out of boating fund which needs fixed. The legislation failed to protect every revenue source for the DEP. Furthermore the DEP needs to pay towns in December but money only comes in around April. DEP is working on fixing this problem, which seems to have arisen inadvertently.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paddle Smart event 20 March at CT fire training academy Windsor Locks – people get discount for Air Museum (can be worth \$14)

Hartford Boat Show next weekend (Paddle Seminar 1 hr. max Sat & Sun).

Grant & Mariani attended Harbor Safety Committee in LI sound:

CG at N. London Ledge Light in summer times will turn on foghorn in additional to normal FOGHORN operations if it receives a message VHF Channel 79 click mike 5 times

DEP will need 5,000 VSC stickers

Educators' forum 10 March 0900-1200 at Old Lyme DEP

ELEANOR MARIANI WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON LOCATION OF ANY ABANDONED VESSELS – CG & DEP WILL PUT TOGETHER A FORM.

LOCATION FOR BAC MEETING IN NORWALK FOR MAY 12 at MARITIME CENTER NAUTILUS ROOM, POSSIBLY 10 NOV, 9MARCH 14 & SEP 2011

Meeting was adjourned 2105

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Biro



CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting May 12, 2010

Steven Biro, Chairman, called the meeting to order at the Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT. In attendance were Steven Biro, US Coast Guard Auxiliary; Sue Weeks, CT Bass Federation Nation; Jean Trapani, Paddlers Network; George Hallenbeck, US Power Squadrons D2; Frank Kemp, US Power Squadrons D2; Eleanor Mariani, CT DEP Boating; John Annino, CT DEP Boating;; Susan Frechette, CT DEP, and Sandy McDonald, Fairfield County Commodores Ass., Secretary.

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The minutes of the January 20, 2010 meeting were approved as written, Ms Mariani said that the March 10 meeting of the CBAC was cancelled because of a lack of a quorum. Chairman Biro said that nominations for new officers will be postponed until the next meeting.

Legislation. Two bills were passed; #272 removes the two hour restriction to test boaters for BUI, and an amendment allows the use of dealer boat numbers for two years. This part is slated as a special act. The second bill is HB 5241, an act concerning Candlewood Lake calling for adoption, by mid 2012, of a maximum 26 ft. boat length rule for new boats. As for regulations, the 2010 DEP package was approved by the Governor and OPM. These will now go to public hearing now scheduled for June 29th at Old Lyme.

Old Business. There was discussion of the use of safe boating certificates for operators of rental boats. Some other states require minimal exposure to state boating laws using video. CT Boating Division is planning to distribute DVDs to dealers with an exam on basic rules. Dealers will issue temporary certificates. These will not include PWCs. A suggestion was to require hand written exams. CT has reciprocity with our neighbor states on boating certificates.

New Business. The following events are scheduled: Flare and Fire training on Stamford's West Beach on June 7 at 6:30PM; Life jacket inflating at Cabellas in East Hartford May 20 at 11AM; Marine Science Day, UCONN Avery Point May 19, New Haven Coast Guard Station, New Haven to kick off National Safe Boating Week May 15; Commissioning of the new CT/DEP 19' inflatable boat at CT/DEP Boating HQ in Old Lyme on June 17; and the first Bass event on Candlewood Lake May 15-16. Ms Trapani reported on "Paddle Smart" event in Windsor Locks March 15. Many vendors and 100 paddlers attended. For boat IDs, the state distributes tags; available from the CG Auxiliary and dealers. Ms Mariani reported on NABA meetings. Passed an model act to require life jackets in winter months, 10/1 to 5/31. The USCG is proposing new rule changes to the vessel number system and the reporting of accidents by boat type.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2010 at Old Lyme. The meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy McDonald, Secretary



CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting September 8, 2010

Grant Westerson, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at the DEP Marine HQ, Old Lyme, CT. In attendance were Grant Westerson, Connecticut Marine Trades Ass.; Sue Weeks, CT Bass Federation Nation; Jean Trapani, Paddlers Network; Frank Kemp, US Power Squadrons D2; Sandra Pierog, US Power Squadrons D1; Eleanor Mariani, CT DEP Boating; John Annino, CT DEP Boating; Mark Chanski, CT DEP Boating; and Sandy McDonald, Fairfield County Commodores Ass., Secretary.

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The minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Legislation/Regulations. Minor technical changes to BUI and other laws and regulations are being considered for the next session. Mr. Westerson is considering proposing lowering the age for those working docks from 16 to 15; changing winter storage no tax dates to November-April 30; and changing vessel lien regulations. Notice of Proposed Rule Making from USCoast Guard: Change to numbering of vessels and reporting of casualties was passed out; comment period extended to October 15.

Old Business. Safe Boating Education regulations were discussed. The report of the public hearing comments is in process of being synthesized and will be sent to the DEP commissioner, then the State Attorney General, and finally to the Legislative Review Committee. The timeline for this is December at the earliest and February, 2011 at the latest. Many public comments were concerned with the on-line courses. At present, 5 to 6 states do not allow on-line courses. On-water education was discussed. This is new and no states currently offer these courses. Launch sites. Rebuilding of the Bayberry Lane launch site in Groton was presented with pictures. This will be done December 31. Three other sites, Lake Lillinonah, Pond Brook, and Branford are have been submitted internally for design consideration. . Some state and federal funds are available.

New Business. John A.: The Boating Division has a Facebook page that will include a schedule. They will be at boat fairs and boat shows this fall and winter to enhance their public relations. Round Table: Sue W: CT will host a Divisional Bass Tournament on Candlewood Lake, September 22-23-24. Grant W.: The state should not support a proposed ban on lead fishing sinkers. Jean T.: A brochure "Operation Paddle Smart" and an ID label for canoes and kayaks were passed out. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary and some Power Squadrons are distributing these to paddlers. Grant W./ John A.: The annual CT Marine Trades boat show in Hartford will be January 28-30, 2011. There will be a new program of fire suppression simulators at the show.

Elections. A slate of officers was developed by nominations from the floor and an election for new officers was held. New officers of the CBAC are: Grant Westerson, Chairman: Sandra Pierog, Vice Chairman: Steve Biro, Secretary.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2010 at the Norwalk Marine Aquarium at 7:30PM. The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy McDonald, Secretary

REPLY: C/O BOATING DIVISION, PO BOX 280, OLD LYME, CT 06371-0280

TELEPHONE: 860.434.8638 FAX: 860.434.3501



CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting November 10, 2010

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Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk, CT. In attendance were Grant Westerson, Connecticut Marine Trades Ass.; Sue Weeks, CT Bass Federation Nation; Jean Trapani, Paddlers Network; Frank Kemp, US Power Squadrons D2; Sandra Pierog, US Power Squadrons D1; John Annino, CT DEP Boating and Mark Chanski, CT DEP Boating.

The minutes of the September 10, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Legislation: John Annino provided an update on proposed regulation changes. The process is moving forward and he anticipates the comments from the hearing and DEP responses will be available for review in January, 2011. A discussion was held regarding invasive plant species, abandoned boats and marine dealer exams. John told the group he is booking boating classes through June 2011. He also said the 2011 boaters guide will not be ready for the January 2011 CMTA boat show. All work is being done in-house this year except for printing. It was suggested that a better graphic of the coastal boater endorsement sticker be included in the guide.

Old Business: Grant Westerson informed the group about the CMTA legislative session to prepare for the new legislative session. John Annino updated the group on the progress on the Bayberry Lane boat launch and recent improvements to the Niantic overflow parking lot. The AMTRAK bridge project on the Niantic River is proceeding with the USCG supervising the contractor.

New Business: DEP is continuing to move forward with on-line applications for boating certificates with a 2012 implementation date. Sportsmen and commercial fishing licenses are currently available on line. There will be a paddle event Saturday January 29th at the CMTA boat show in Hartford.

Future meetings will be held January 12, 2011 in Old Lyme and March 9, 2011 in Norwalk, both at 7:30PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pierog Acting Secretary

John

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