



CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Connecticut Boating Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting, March 21, 2012
Conference Call

COALITION OF
CONNECTICUT
SPORTSMEN

CONNECTICUT
BASS FEDERATION
NATION

CONNECTICUT
MARINE TRADES
ASSOCIATION

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
COMMODORES
ASSOCIATION

PADDLERS
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PERSONAL
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ASSOCIATION

U.S. COAST
GUARD AUXILIARY

U.S. POWER
SQUADRONS

Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30pm. Also attending the call were: Sandy McDonald, Sandra Pierog, Eleanor Mariani, Frank Kemp(guest) and Bob Zippis (guest). John Webber from Northeast Regional Ocean Council joined later for his presentation.

The minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting on Old Lyme were approved with a spelling correction to Sandy McDonald's name.

Eleanor Mariani (DEEP) provided updates on pending legislation to include a bill impacting the boat rental industry, a bill about inspecting boats and trailers when moving to a different waterbody, and the operation of a vessel with dealer numbers. Grant Westerson discussed a bill that would lengthen the winter window when boats are exempt from use taxes. Both discussed at length a bill to adopt vessel titling in Connecticut starting with the 2016 model year as well as transfers in 2015 from other states with titles and documented vessels dropping their federal registration. Deadlines for the various committees are coming up very soon.

John Webber discussed his presentation of the NROC and the boating survey program that will be its focus. It should begin sometime during the boating season this year. He reviewed the slide pages that were distributed and suggested that support letters for the project would be of great assistance.

Old Business: Eleanor discuss the progress of the 50 spot launching ramp at Lake Lillinonah is moving forward promptly and may go to contract (\$900,000) late summer closing for 6 months to get it done.

New Business: National Safe Boating Week will be May 19-25, Wear a PFD to Work: May 18, "Ready, Set, Wear, It" will be May 19. National Marina Day is June 19th. Operation Dry Water (DUI), June 22-24.

The US Coast Guard said that the standards for PFDs are changing in the near future. NASBLA studied the safe boating learning process and found minimal difference in retention between class room taught and online learners after a four month interval.

The call was adjourned at approximately 8:00pm. Next meeting is scheduled in Norwalk on May 9th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Grant W. Westerson, Chairman

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

Minutes of Conference Call Meeting, May 9, 2012

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Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:34P.M. On the call were: Grant Westerson, CT Marine Trades Ass. Sandra Pierog, US Power Squadrons-D1; George Hallenbeck, US Power Squadrons-D2; Frank Kemp, US Power Squadrons-D2; Eleanor Mariani, CT DEEP Boating; John Annino, CT DEEP Boating;; and Sandy McDonald, Fairfield County Commodores Ass., Acting Secretary. Guests were Greg Lownds; Gaeton Andretta (Small Boat Shop); Bob Zipps (Antique Motor Club). The minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting contained on page 1, were approved. Page 2 was distributed in error.

Legislation/ Regulations. There was a detailed discussion of current proposed legislation which will not be decided until the legislature adjourns. The list follows of eight laws mentioned (some included amendments): SB 220 a bill to give subsidies to shorefront towns for dredging; SB 323; cranes; SB 418, titling for vessels; SB 376, rebuilding waterfronts, new definition of coastal jurisdiction; HB 5425, extended use tax; 5257; 5259, zebra mussels on trailers, and 5412, fishing use of dealer numbers. It was suggested that a list of laws passed or rejected be sent to the Advisory Council after adjournment, along with a synopsis of each law.

Old Business. The Northeast Recreational Boater Survey was described. 9500 Connecticut coastal boaters will be selected randomly out of 96,000 for this boat use survey, which will be valuable for planning coastal projects. Boat launch status: Lake Lillinonah - in final design stage for start at end of the season; Latin's Cove - in the design stage waiting for an information meeting; Bantam Lake - State has bought a marina with a boat launch, which needs renovation. Launch opens April 30, marina opens May 30.

There is no fee for boat launches except in State Parks.

There will be a change in the process to get a Safe Boating Card. It will use home printers.

New Business. Several new courses for boating and boaters were listed: the Boating Division will be providing On the Water training for pump out boat operators; Paddle Smart in New Haven; Law enforcement seminar, with emphasis on accident reporting; 5 day Basic Crew course at Old Lyme for officers; 4 day course for boating educators in close quarters boat handling course; a course on water sports and navigation for law enforcement officers can be attained through the National Association of State Boating Law Administrator's website. There are also boating events: Law enforcement award to Officer Steven Stanko; No Child Left Inside events- paddle event; National Safe Boating Week, May 25; National Marina Day, June 9, Movable Bridge Meeting, June 7; June 13, 4PM Bantam Lake Marina with DEEP Commissioner. State buoys are being set in the Mystic River, Housatonic River, and Candlewood Lake. There was vandalism of Porta-Potties at Coventry Lake. 100,000 2012 CT Boaters Guides are being printed on better paper. John Annino reported that the planning for the 2013 Boaters Guide was beginning. It was requested that the Coastal Boater Endorsement, which was omitted in the 2012 edition, be re-instituted in a prominent position in the 2013 edition. The Hartford Boat Show is going from 3 to 4 days next year. The Paddlers were invited to participate.

New Members. Bob Zipps (Antique Outboard Motor Club), to represent antique motor enthusiasts, and Gaeton Andretta (Small Boat Shop), to represent Connecticut's paddlers, are being considered for membership on the Council. Vote on whether to recommend each individual will be taken up at the May meeting. Both will send short notes to the Chair as to who they would be representing and their boating backgrounds. Resulting recommendations will be sent to the DEEP Commissioner for approval

Next CBAC Meeting., Wednesday September 26 at Old Lyme, CT.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy McDonald, Acting Secretary

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Grant Westerson proposed that we could consider supporting a regulatory rate increase on boat registrations where the money would go back to the DEP as opposed to a property tax increase.

New Business

If you want to lookup a bill you can go to www.cga.ct.gov, you do need to know the number of the bill. You can also sign up to receive alerts.

The following are upcoming events that Boating is participating at: 3/5/11 Cabelas, 3/19/11 Pilot Point Open House and an Educators Forum 3/23/2011 at the DEP Marine Headquarters from 9am to 12 noon.

Eleanor sent all an email with information about the DEP No Child Left Inside program.

Also another one regarding: EPA Seeks Public Comments to Help Develop Management Practices for Recreational Vessels

For More information about the Clean Boating Act:

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/vessel/CBA/about.cfm>

NASBLA – Eleanor attended a workshop of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators in Kentucky. The 2010 Highway Transportation bill authorizes the **WALLOP-BREAUX** Trust Fund and we need to make sure that it continues to exist. Boating groups rely on these funds for various projects.

The Coast Guard Strategic Plan is available. www.uscgboating.org and you can download it.

NASBLA is now a strategic partner working with the US Power Squadrons with on water training. There is Operation Dry Water June 24 -26 regarding BUI water issues.

NASBLA is also developing:

1. New Field Sobriety Testing
2. Study to look at the retention of knowledge of online versus classroom courses
3. BOATS Program – certify level of competency of an operator of a vessel – sworn officers with significant boating experience.
4. T-31 Standards for law enforcement boats to provide for safety in construction of those boats based on use.
5. Accident reporting – Improve quality – study for a better understanding for possible change
 1. Data
 2. Coast Guard to decide on terms/definitions
6. Two Tier system for accident reporting – Making boat operator and state – responsible for reporting of all accidents. .

Grant suggested getting Marine Insurance Companies to send accident reports.

Other

None

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,



CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, September 26, 2012, Marine Headquarters, Old Lyme

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SQUADRONS

Grant Westerson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30P.M. In attendance were: Grant Westerson, CT Marine Trades Ass. George Hallenbeck, US Power Squadrons-D2; John (Sandy) McDonald, Fairfield County Commodores Ass.; Bob Crook, Coalition of Sportsmen; Steven G.M. Biro, USCG Auxiliary; Tom Reynolds, CT Bass Federation. Guests included Frank Kemp, Darien Sail and Power Squadron; Gaeton Andretta (Small Boat Shop); Bob Zippis (Antique Motor Club). DEEP representatives were: Eleanor Mariani, CT DEEP Boating; John Annino, CT DEEP Boating. The minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

Legislation/ Regulations. Bob Crook noted that this was a long session this year. His group was concerned that towns might seek authority to get property tax. Eleanor Mariani indicated that she did a quick survey completed by other Boating Law Administrators regarding vessel registration and would make it available once it is collated. Eleanor Mariani explained process for agency bills. She noted that the Division was proposing improvements to the abandoned boat laws and proposing authority to utilize online boating courses to satisfy the requirement leading to certification. She noted that she did not know where this would fall in the agency's priorities. Titling of vessels was discussed. Grant Westerson and Tom Reynolds indicated titling would be good for the consumer and that CMTA would support.

The need for technical correction to remove the word "siren" for the requirement for boaters to go at Slow-No-Wake speed by law enforcement boats was discussed. It was asked if DEEP could take this up. Eleanor said she would look into it.

The issue of the need for more Conservation Officers was discussed.

Old Business. A motion was made by Steve Biro, second by George Hallenbeck and passed unanimously to recommend to the Commissioner that Gaeton Andretta, Small Boat Shop, be part of the Boating Advisory Council. A motion was made by Bob Crook, second by Tom Reynolds to recommend to the Commissioner that Robert Zippis, Antique Outboard Motor Club, be recommended for the Council. The motion carried with 3 votes for, one opposed and one abstention.

Eleanor discussed the status of boat launch construction projects. She discussed the Conservation Database system that is moving ahead and the regulations for vessel size limit for Candlewood that were coming before the Legislative Regulatory Review Committee. The Boater's Guide will be in a new format this year and will have advertizing. She suggested that people should tell their membership in case anyone wanted to advertize. Jacky Gorman of her office will be coordinating and she may be contacted for further information. The new pumpout boat on Candlewood lake pumped 400 + gallons of sewage over Labor Day weekend.

New Business.

Steve Biro and Sandy McDonald discussed a project in Norwalk that is of concern because it is removing marina slips and water dependant use in the area. The proposed area for mitigation on the East River, they say, is inferior. Army Corps of Engineers is holding a public hearing on October 10 about the proposed project. Upon request, Eleanor said she would see who from DEEP was involved with the permitting.

Next CBAC Meeting., Wednesday November 14 at Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk CT.
Respectfully submitted, Eleanor Mariani,

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