



## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 14, 2015 Minutes  
New Haven Region Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

1. Eleanor Mariani called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. The minutes of December 17th meeting were approved without changes.

In attendance were: Eleanor Mariani, George Hallenbeck, Frank Kemp, Bob Zipps, Eric Lundin, R. Michael Payton, Tom Reynolds and John Crane.

Regulations;

2. Proposed Bill 5142, raising the minimum age to obtain a boating license to 16

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- a. New Hire: Jerry Desmond: took John Annino's spot
    - i. Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
    - ii. Stonington Police 25 years
    - iii. Teach instructors 20 years
    - iv. Course NASBLA approved
    - v. Schools coach
    - vi. Police Boats-on water teach
  - b. Teach on-water classes
  - c. DEEP plans to get new training boats if funded
  - d. Fedorko Foundation contacted DEEP re safety training for water sports including tubing. Plan to be at major boat shows including New York in January. Contact
  - e. Fishing: Dean Rustic,
    - i. Handicap Access at Squantz Pond / Latin Cove
      1. How get grant, see Mike Payton
      2. ADA campaign
        - a. 8' wide dock, no curb
      3. Highland Lake
  - f. NASBLA proposed regulations
    - i. Reopened for 30 days
3. Eleanor to speak at USPS National Meeting in Jacksonville as new NASBLA President.

Adjourn 9:15 pm by Sandra Pierog  
Next meeting will be held January 14, 2015



## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 11, 2015 Minutes  
New Haven Region Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

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Meeting called to order at 1930.

Attendees: Steven G. M. Biro USCG Aux, Eleanor Mariani, Sandra Pierog USPS, John Craine FCCA, Eric Lundin CT Encon Police, Bob Zipps AOMCI

### RELEVANT LEGISLATION (See Exhibit A)

Reviewed Legislation: 645 Flare Guns are not deadly weapons.

#### NOTES:

1. Proposed HB-5692 already provided for by CGS 15-150 and 15-140e(d).
2. Proposed HB-5142 wants to raise minimum age for towing tubing and waterskiing. Also requires adding 10-12 minutes concerning safe towing to Safe Boating Certificate. Bill is not moving. There was a controversial discussion regarding *CT Boating Guide* and any mandatory education regarding waterskiing/tubing, which will state that boat engine must be turned off (not just neutral) when retrieving person in water.

### REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

Nothing in pipeline for regulations, except moving buoys in Squantz Cove on Candlewood Lake further from shore.

Hewitt Pond – no internal combustion engines allowed, passed in Fisheries regulations.

### OLD BUSINESS

Review of Legislative Process in CT

### NEW BUSINESS

There will be election for chair, vice chair and secretary at May meeting.

Sandra Pierog – appointed self and Eleanor on nominating committee.

DISCHARGE PERMITS: Eleanor Mariani talked about George Hallenbeck's issue regarding regulations: all non-recreational, non-military boats greater than 79' must have discharge permits for discharge of bilge or rainwater and any non-recreational vessel less than 79 feet or commercial fishing vessel of any size discharging ballast water. Originally, regulation required discharge permit for all boats, except military boats). Subsequently, it was proposed that non-recreational under 79' be required to have discharge permits commencing 2014. However the Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) has been extended by Congress until 2017. The House and Senate passed a bill (s2444) that would extend the current moratorium regarding discharge incidental to normal operation of vessels for another 3 years. It was signed on December 12, and went into effect December 18, 2014.

More information on requirements of the sVGP can be found at [http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/vessels/upload/sVGP\\_fs\\_2014.pdf](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/vessels/upload/sVGP_fs_2014.pdf).

The prohibition on discharge of bilge water actually comes from a special condition that CT imposed. DEEP will be submitting a request to EPA to have that condition removed.

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

TELEPHONE: 860.434.8638 FAX: 860.434.3501

Eleanor discussed various national and DEEP Boating Division initiatives.

*SEE EXHIBIT B regarding invitations.*

National safe boating week begins May. DEEP Boating Division is looking for partners for 16-22 May. 16 May wear lifejacket ("READY SET WEAR IT") promotion tries to get organizations to create an event showing wearing lifejacket. If interested in partnering or planning – contact [Gwendolynn.Flynn@ct.gov](mailto:Gwendolynn.Flynn@ct.gov)

NASBLA – promoting taking boating education course during week of 20 Apr -25 Apr when kids on vacation.

*18 March 15 Webinar on this initiative EDT See NASBLA.ORG*

#### **WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET 15 MAY**

PILOT PROGRAM: Ambassador Program. DEEP goes to schools (mostly SE CT high schools and middle schools) to promote safe boating projects in the schools either through community service or internships (School decides). 23 March- Parents and student ambassadors will come to DEEP about safety messages. Ambassadors will put this up in schools. Hope project finishes up National Safe Boating Week.




DEEP 25 March hosting BUI training, also at end of April training new officers week of 27<sup>th</sup> on boat operations.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Questions asked about the fatal tubing accident that occurred in western CT in July, 2014. Two girls were injured by the propeller of the vessel pulling them in a tubing accident, one fatally. The operator was 16 and had a certificate.

Towns can make ordinances re: operation of boats but only with DEEP approval see CGS 15-136 THRU 15-140. Only town (local) police can enforce valid town regulations, unless enacted by state law or regulations. Statute limits penalty for violating town ordinance.

**NEXT MEETING 27 May 2015**

Bill #	Title / Statement of Purpose	Public Hearing Date	Committee Actions	File No.	House Actions	Senate Actions
<b>Raised SB-868</b>	AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF JETTED ARTICULATED VESSELS AND CERTAIN WATER SKIING DEVICES.  To regulate wake surfing and the use of jetted articulated vessels.  House Cal: Senate Cal:	02-13	02-27 ENV - Joint Favorable			02-05 SCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV
						
<b>Proposed SB-353</b>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE COASTAL JURISDICTION LINE FOR TIDAL, COASTAL OR NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE STATE.  To allow certain man-made structures and objects to be used to mark the coastal jurisdiction for tidal, coastal and navigable waters of the state.					01-22 SCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV
<b>Proposed HB-5460</b>	AN ACT PREVENTING THE DROWNING OF CHILDREN.  To prevent drowning deaths of children by creating a program that would offer free swimming lessons to children in the state.  House Cal: Senate Cal:				01-16 HCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON KID	
<b>Proposed HB-5142</b>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR OBTAINING A SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATE OR A CERTIFICATE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION.  To raise the minimum age to obtain a boating license.  House Cal: Senate Cal:				01-09 HCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV	
<b>Committee SB-699</b>	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE FOR TOWING ANY PERSON BY VESSEL AND REQUIRING THE COMPLETION OF A SAFE TOWING COURSE PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SUCH TOWING BY VESSEL.  To establish "Emily's law" by creating safe towing by boat laws in Connecticut that will apply to the use of a vessel to tow any person, by line, on any apparatus.  House Cal: Senate Cal:	02-27	02-11 ENV - Vote to Draft			02-18 SCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV  02-17 SCO - DRAFTED BY COMMITTEE  01-23 SCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV
						
<b>Proposed HB-5692</b>	AN ACT REQUIRING THE FURNISHING OF BOATING SAFETY INFORMATION TO PERSONS PURCHASING OR RENTING A WATERCRAFT THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A BOATING SAFETY COURSE PRIOR TO OPERATION.  To promote boating safety in the state on both public and private waterways.  House Cal: Senate Cal:				01-21 HCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV	
<b>Proposed HB-5473</b>	AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES.  To require all-terrain vehicles to be registered through the state, and that the thirty-dollar registration fee be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to maintain trails.  House Cal: Senate Cal:				01-16 HCO - REF. TO JOINT COMM. ON ENV	

**Mariani, Eleanor**

**From:** Pam Dillon <pam@nasbla.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 10:40 AM  
**To:** BLAS; Education Coordinators  
**Cc:** STAFF  
**Subject:** Webinar Announcement and Details: Spring Aboard Campaign - Take a Boater Education Course - March 18 Webinar details

To BLAs and Education Coordinators:

During last week's BLA workshop in Lexington, KY, NASBLA Education Committee Chair Susan Stocker announced plans for a national campaign encouraging boaters to take a boater education course. The campaign, entitled **Spring Aboard**, **will be conducted April 20-26, 2015** and is open to participation by all states, territories, boating education organizations, instructors, and course providers regardless of whether your state's boater education course is mandated or voluntary.

**On March 18, 2015 at 3:00 EDT, NASBLA will host a FREE informational webinar** regarding how your program can participate in the *Spring Aboard* campaign.

Please pre-register for the event at the link provided below. *Please distribute this email and the link to all interested parties.*

**Meeting Title:**

National Campaign Announcement and Overview: Spring Aboard - Take a Boater Education Course

**Host(s):**

NASBLA Education Marketing & Outreach Subcommittee

**Date & Time:**

Wed, Mar 18, 2015, 3:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**Registration Link:**

<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/mkd4lh0gawsh&eom>

Thank you! Contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Pam

**Pamela Dillon, CAE**

Education Director  
NASBLA

[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)

859.225.9487 Extension 7368

**NASBLA**

1648 McGrathiana Parkway, Suite 360  
Lexington, KY 40511

Join us for the NASBLA Annual Conference  
**September 13 – 16, 2015, in Wichita, Kansas**

Become part of our community:





## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

June, 10 2015 Minutes  
New Haven Region Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

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Meeting called to order at 1940. The meeting had been rescheduled from May 27.

Attendees: Sandra Pierog, USPS D1, Thomas Reynolds, CBN, John Craine, FCCA, Gaeton Andretta, Paddling/Rowing, George Hallenbeck USPS D2, Eleanor Mariani.

**Legislative:** Eleanor reminded the group that Emily's Law regarding towing of tubes or other devices with a boat goes into effect on October 1, 2015. There is an on-line course being developed. All future CT boating courses will be a combo course with a Safe Waterskiing endorsement. The endorsement for Coastal Boater still exists.

Eleanor also reported the Port Authority will be transitioned from the DOT to a quasi-governmental Port Authority. Harbormasters may be reassigned to the Office of Long Island Sound Programs. Tom Reynolds, a harbormaster, indicated he was not invited to a recent training event, so there may be a communication issue within the current structure.

The jetted articulated vessels bill did not pass this session. It was passed by the Senate but not considered by the House.

Eleanor reported that 28 staff positions boating related are going to be funded in the coming year by a special transportation fund created by 1.06% of the sales tax on any fuel sold in CT. The Federal Sport-fishing Restoration Fund provides 15% to DEEP Boating for motor boat access and must be matched by CT. Overall there should be little impact on overall operations, but no positive news. Double digit cuts are expected for the next fiscal year, amounting to over \$600,000 by all DEEP.

The new abandoned boat legislation is working really well and marinas are taking advantage of it. Eight cases have been cleared of the 30 coming in within 45 days of the law going into effect. You can view the list of boats on the Boating web page. Any service lien takes precedence and DEEP looks for lien on the Secretary of State records. Mechanics liens can be used for boat trailers.

**Election of Officers:** Thomas Reynolds moved, Gaeton Andretta seconded to elect Sandra Pierog as chairman. Motion passed unanimously. There were no nominations for vice chair or secretary.

**New Business:** A discussion was held on the use of drones for fishing. Thomas Reynolds moved, Sandra Pierog seconded to recommend the prohibition of use of drones for fishing. Motion passed unanimously.

Eleanor reported there are 14 schools participating in the student ambassador program. The students will be creating a safe boating display, displaying it in a prominent area in their school and making in-school announcements.

DEEP is now using Facebook and Tweeting when boat launch areas are closed due to reaching capacity. A discussion was held on changes to pump out boat operators for the coming season. Complaints on operators can be sent to Kate Brown, who recently joined the Boating Education division. There is an interactive map on the Boating website to help find local pump out boats and facilities. Pilot's Point Marina has built three solar powered pump out boats which are being used at Brewer's Marinas.

Eleanor reported that there will a webinar on May 29<sup>th</sup> with Discover Boating to help people who are already licensed captains to work with marina for getting loaner boats. Eleanor will send council members the link for participation.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept 9, 2015 in New Haven.

Meeting adjourned at 2100.

Minutes prepared by Sandra Pierog, acting secretary



## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 30, 2015 Minutes  
New Haven Region Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

Meeting called to order at 1935.

Attendees: Sandra Pierog, USPS D1, Thomas Reynolds, CBN, , Eric Lundin CT Encon Police, Bob Zipps AOMCI,, Gaeton Andretta, Paddling/Rowing, Eleanor Mariani.

**Approval of the minutes of May 27, 2015:** Thomas Reynolds moved, Gaeton Andretta seconded to approve the minutes of May 27, 2015 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative:** Eleanor reminded the group that Public Act 15-25 ("Emily's Law") regarding towing of water-skiers, tubes or other devices with a boat goes into effect on October 1, 2015. Any boater pulling a water-skier or towing (even an out-of-state boater) must have the endorsement if a CT resident would be required to hold one. Anyone who received a safe boating certificate prior to September 30, 2015 is grandfathered. DEEP Boating Division has met with all of the private providers of boating courses and has provided an updated supplement to cover the new law along with a 10 question exam. This 10 questions exam is in addition to the existing 10 question CT law portion. The safe waterskiing endorsement will be available through the on-line sportsmen licensing system. Boating Division webpage now has a Safe Waterskiing on-line course for new certifications. The fine for towing without the endorsement or under age towing is \$140. The fine for operating a boat without a safe boating certificate is \$120. Eleanor circulated copies of Public Act 15-25 ("Emily's Law") and the notice from the DEEP website regarding the Safe Waterskiing Endorsement to all in attendance. All future CT boating courses will be a combo course with an SBC, including the PWC and safe waterskiing endorsements.

Eleanor and Eric updated the group on the NASBLA meeting held in September. The US Coast Guard will in 2017 require Hull Identification Numbers ("HIN") will be required to be verified as part of the boat registration and accident reporting process. The biggest issue for Connecticut will be implementing a system to verify the HIN. DMV will not be doing the verification. The change is being driven by issues with the USCG not being able to reconcile the data provided on accident reports. Some states are requiring a rubbing of the HIN to be submitted as the verification vehicle. DEEP is working on a plan for implementation. At the NASBLA meeting a session was held on life-saving techniques and drowning. A new procedure is recommended to just do CPR chest compressions circulating air in blood. NASBLA continues to recommend that Boating Law Enforcement officers wear life jackets on the job. It is not anticipated mandatory wear will come down from the USCG in the near future. A new "Spring Aboard" program is encouraging the public to take a boating course. NASBLA is also working on a standardized reciprocity program for boating courses and safety certificates. Some of the western states are forming stakeholder groups, reaching out to paddle-sports enthusiasts who use waterfront facilities and do not pay into the system for input on what they use and what they need.

NASBLA has published a list of the ten most wanted boating safety improvements for 2016.

1. Reduce boating under the influence of alcohol and other drugs
2. Increase life jacket wear/implement mandatory wear in some situations on certain size boats
3. Address distracted boating/improper lookout
4. Address paddle-sports issues (including stand up paddleboards)
5. Standardized state/Federal accident terminology
6. Mandate (or increase) boater education for all powerboat operators of any age
7. Advocate for safety of towed water-sports
8. Support implementation of National Boating Education Standards as recognized by the USCG and NASBLA
9. National Reciprocity accepting boater cards for out-of-state boaters
10. Implement measures of effectiveness for recreational boating safety program practices

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Connecticut now has reciprocity only with border states and New Hampshire.

Eleanor reported that 28 staff positions boating related are going to be funded in the coming year by a special transportation fund created by 1.06% of the sales tax on any fuel sold in CT. The Federal Sport-fishing Restoration Fund provides 15% to DEEP Boating for motor boat access and must be matched by CT. Overall there should be little impact on overall operations, but no positive news. Double digit cuts are expected for the next fiscal year, amounting to over \$600,000 by all DEEP.

The new abandoned boat legislation is working really well and marinas are taking advantage of it. Eight cases have been cleared of the 30 coming in within 45 days of the law going into effect. You can view the list of boats on the Boating web page. Any service lien takes precedence and DEEP looks for lien on the Secretary of State records. Mechanics liens can be used for boat trailers.

**Election of Officers:** Gaeton Andretta moved, Sandra Pierog seconded to nominate Thomas Reynolds a vice-chairman. Motion passed three votes in favor, with Thomas Reynolds abstaining. There were no nominations for secretary. Eleanor Mariani will reach out to Steve Biro regarding an alternate from the USCGAux.

**New Business:** The invasive plant, Hydrilla has been found in Coventry Lake. Hydrilla is listed as a Federal Noxious Weed. Northeast Aquatic Resources is diving the area to attempt to hand remove any rooted plants. Boaters are reminded to remove all vegetation from their boats and trailers before re-launching.

The Town of Coventry held a meeting on the use of fly-boards and the effect on the lake. A demonstration was held, with divers in the waters. Preliminary results show the use of the fly-boards caused as disturbance of sediment. The USCG in federal waters considers the rental of fly-boards a commercial activity requiring a six-pack license.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for November 18, 2015 in New Haven.

Meeting adjourned at 2100.

Minutes prepared by Sandra Pierog, acting secretary  
(minutes corrected at meeting 11/18/15)



## CONNECTICUT BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 18, 2015 Minutes  
New Haven Region Water Authority  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

Meeting called to order at 1934

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### ATTENDEES:

Sandy Pierog USPS, Chair, Eleanor Mariani DEEP, CAPT Eric Lundin, George Hallenback USPS, Steven G.M. Biro USCG AUX, Secretary, John Craine FCCA  
Robert Zipps AOMCI

### Minutes of 30 September 2015 approved

### Steven Biro re-elected as secretary of BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Regulations (Eleanor Mariani)<sup>1</sup>

In January, BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL will review all submissions for proposed changes to regulations.

Cutoff for comments (proposed changes and evaluation of proposed changes) 15 Dec

DEEP's Boating Division Minimum focus is boating and public safety

Process re: regulations - addition to handout

Tim Delgado goes through all comments for changes in regulations

Eleanor Mariani reviews and adds points

Puts together on all hearing report. Must comment on every comment

### Stamford Boatyard (George Hallenback and Steven Biro)

Currently before Zoning Commission. Two other Stamford City bodies rejected BLT claim

BLT bought it and demolished all facilities without permit.

Cease and desist order issued by City of Stamford. In litigation.

Fines are accruing.

BLT wants to change zoning so it can build on old 14 Acre Brewer Boatyard site

BLT proposal is to convert cement factory to boatyard; in addition to use another separate property originally soap factory for boat storage.

*Some problems with BLT proposal:*

City charter – 14 acres to be used for a boatyard (not as contemplated by BLT).

Insufficient depth (contemplates dredging)

BLT proposal provided for small boats only

Sailboats not accommodated

No BLT commitment to complete the boatyard as in its proposal is required. Fewer boat spaces than claimed because boats cannot be so close to another to be accessible

Rewarding breaking law

No provision for supplying power and water to each dock

Chairwoman will Email to Commissioner, asking BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL to get involved in Boating related DEEP matters and asking how we can forward advice and opinions

**NE Ocean Planning recreational project update**

Project did on-line survey and asked people to fill gaps in their draft report.

It created a survey supposed to create description of all uses of waters in our area which could be used for evaluating applications and regulations.

NE Ocean Council got input from fishing, paddlers, sailors and scuba divers

Final report has issued

Eleanor Mariani to check NE Ocean data portal [NortheastOceandata.org](http://NortheastOceandata.org) and ask Katie Lund to advise BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL about it and explain how it is expected to be used

**Boat Launches**

DEEP went out to bid for engineering plans to renovate Brantford Boat launch.

Cheapest \$1.1 million, which is more than what's available. DEEP looking into making a smaller, less expensive project.

Finished Bashan Lake in Haddam (didn't cost Boating Division money) DEEP owned

dam replaced; as remediation for extreme drawdown and environmental impacts, DEEP Dam Safety Unit paid for a new ramp to be designed and constructed with input from Boating Division.

DEEP planning 4 projects (program that will make improvements to highly used but smaller boat launches for ADA, e.g. compliant docks):

Winchester Lake (Winchester)

Bantam Lake (Morris)

Mansfield Hollow (Mansfield)

Beach Pond (Voluntown)

All designs were bid at approximately \$90K do design per launch. Too much money, so DEEP provided plates to standardize projects which show how it wants project for ADA compliance. Bid for designs down to around \$64K each.

Squantz Cove - no place to put ADA compliant dock (too much wetland therefore cannot get permits and Parks did not want to cut trees

Working on Lattins cove ADA compliant – (DEEP working on a prototype on how to get wheelchair to water from dock.)

### **New Business**

Craine talks about dredge issue for towns on LONG ISLAND SOUND, including Greenwich. Center lane is silting in. Greenwich has 3 channels.

Third channel Mianus River is so narrow two boats cannot pass side by side rowers etc. cannot get out of channel. This is a safety issue. Army Corps of Engineers and CT approved of spoils dump site. However, New York is opposed to dump sites. Need approval for anything over 25K cubic yards. Smaller projects don't need such approval.

For March Boating Advisory Council meeting in January: maybe can get office of LONG ISLAND SOUND to attend BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL and explain

Emily's Law: Not law but foundation promoting raising Bright orange flag up when someone in water - same idea as SCUBA diving flag.

### **Adjourned 1913**

**Next meeting 13 JAN 2016 1930 hours**

Respectfully submitted,

Steven G. M. Biro  
Secretary