

Connecticut Pilot Commission Regular Public Meeting January 10, 2023
Connecticut Port Authority Office - Remotely
Old Saybrook, CT

Meeting Minutes

In response to concerns regarding the spread of coronavirus disease, and in the interest of the safety and well-being of participation, the meeting was held remotely by conference call (as permitted by Executive Order 7B).

1. Call to Order – The public meeting was called to order by Mike Eisele at 09:03 am.

CPC members in Attendance: Wynn Bohonon, Captain Maco, Ulysses Hammond, Mike Eisele, Chris Clark, Captain Peszke, Dave Pohorylo

CPC Members Absent: Ralph Gogliettino, Bill Gash

Port Authority Staff: Joe Salvatore

Public: Captain Meade, Captain Murray, Captain Jonas

2. Summary Report – Approval of December 6, 2022

Motion: Hammond

Second: Maco

Abstained: Clark

Approved: Yes

3. Public Comments – Captain Meade inquired about the Extension-of-Route Legislation “old” raised Bill 5259, “An Act Concerning an Application to the CPA for an Extension of Route” Salvatore informed the Commission that CPA is preparing a legislative package for 2023 which includes this bill.
4. U.S. Coast Guard – No representatives present
5. Continuing Business
 - A. Discussion-Pilot Safety Equipment & Training Reimbursement Regulations CGS 15-14-1c Additional Fees.
Points of Discussion.
 - No pending reimbursement request.
 - B. CT Pilot Apprentice Training Discussion and Progress Update (Interport)
 - Interport Pilots reports that Captain McCallum has made several trips with them. He is working on testing for his federal license for Western LIS and Bridgeport Harbor. He attained New Haven and is continuing LIS transits.
 - Captain Dillman is in contact with Interport, needs to get on a schedule to start trips.
 - Captain Cooney no update to report.

C. CT Pilot General Update

- Commissioner Eisele noted that there is a jack-up vessel in Bridgeport Harbor, M/V Jill. This vessel is supporting windfarm installation work. This is a U.S. Flag vessel not subject to compulsory pilotage. The vessel has reportedly departed CT to return to the U.S. Gulf.

D. Discussion/Review – Renewal Pilotage Rate Increase Proposal 5-year plan submitted May 28, 2022, by Interport Pilots.

- Salvatore informed that the CPA has approved the pilotage rate increase schedule recommended by the CPC. The rate increase is effective January 1, 2023. CT and NY are in lockstep in pilotage rates through 2027.
- CPA at the December 20th Board meeting approved.

E. Update on Involving CT Pilot and the Grounding of M/V Great Comfort on February 15, 2022.

- Commissioner Eisele reported that the CPA and Captain Peszke reached agreement on a Joint Stipulation and Settlement Agreement to resolve the administrative hearing arising out of the Great Comfort grounding. As a result of that stipulation, Captain Peszke is currently serving a thirty-day license suspension which ends on January 20th. Captain Peszke will also complete 40-hours of navigation and/or ship handling training courses within six months. Captain Peszke has already completed a course at MITAGS which counts for 21 hours of the required training. Captain Maco raised the issue of additional training specific to the berth at Gateway at which this grounding occurred. Captain Peszke reported that he has completed Interport-sponsored training as an observing pilot on a vessel berthing at Gateway. This incident is now considered to be resolved and will be removed from the agenda.

F. Update – 2023 Pilot Licensed Issued

- Salvatore reported that the 2023 licenses were issued to Captains Richardson, Toby, Meade, Jonas, Butler and Peszke. The 2023 license issuance cycle is complete.

G. Approval of and a letter to CPA Recommending that an Extension-of-Route be Granted to Captain Peszke for Bridgeport Harbor.

- Commissioner Eisele and Bohonon reported that they completed a review of the package submitted by Captain Peszke in support of his request for an extension-of-route to include Bridgeport Harbor. The package demonstrated Captain Peszke's completion of six round-trips in and out of Bridgeport Harbor aboard vessels subject to compulsory state pilotage under the supervision of a CT-licensed pilot within the previous 36 months as required by the state.

Motion: Bohonon – To recommend that an extension-of-route be granted to Captain Peszke for Bridgeport Harbor.

Second: Maco

Opposed: Pohorylo

Abstained: Peszke

Motion passed 5-1, Eisele, Clark, Maco, Hammond, Bohonon in favor

6. New Business

- Commissioner Eisele raised the issue of the Ever Forward grounding in Chesapeake Bay in which a contributing factor was the distraction of a Maryland Pilot by a lengthy personal cell phone call. As a result of this incident, the Maryland Boards of Pilots has moved to prohibit cell phone use during piloting. The Commission discussed generally cell phone use during pilotage and the possibility of regulating cell phone use. Commissioner Eisele will circulate information concerning the issue.

7. Adjourn

Motion: Bohonon

Second: Maco

Time: 9:40 am

Next Meeting:

9:00 AM Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Location: Remote