



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:00am

Location:

CT Port Authority Office
455 Boston Post Road
Suite 204
Old Saybrook, CT 06457

MINUTES AS AMENDED

1. Call to Order

The public meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Gash at 9:00am

CPC Members in Attendance: Chair Bill Gash, CPA Executive Director Ulysses Hammond, Dave Pohorylo, Mike Eisele, Captain Joseph Maco, Wynne Bohannon, Chris Clark

CPC Members Absent: Captain Michael Peszke, Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Staff: Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Captain Kyle Butler, Captain Adam Richardson, LT Danielle Tompkins, CWO Robert Flickinger, Sean Byrnes, Arnold Skretta, Captain Richard Astles

2. Approval of the January 9, 2024 meeting minutes

Motion by Mike Eisele, seconded by Wynne Bohannon. So, VOTED with NO opposed and an abstention by Dave Pohorylo.

3. Public Comment – Public participation related to Agenda topics (limit to 5 minutes per person/topic)

None

4. U.S. Coast Guard Update

Introduction by CWO Robert Flickinger, Aid to Navigation Officer who noted that they would like to discuss aids to navigation with the pilot association. Introduction by LT Danielle Tompkins, Waterway Management Division Chief who is filling in until April. U.S. Coast Guard will continue to attend the meetings but may not be in attendance each month.

Chair Gash requested that if they have any items they would like included on the agenda for future meetings, to email them to the CT Port Authority.

5. Continuing Business

(a) Soundings and Dredging

▪ Update on request for soundings at New Haven Harbor

- Ulysses Hammond contacted Jim Dillman who agreed to provide the requested soundings.
- Rich Astles will copy CT Port Authority and CT Pilot Commission regarding a sounding request.

(b) Apprentice Pilot Program Update

- The CT Pilot Commission will be submitting a recommendation letter with the revised last page of the CPA's working procedures to the Board for the April Board meeting.
- Chair Gash inquired as to the progress of the current apprentice. Captain Adam Richardson reported that the apprentice is doing well and is approved to test for Bridgeport and Western Long Island Sound.
- Chair Gash noted that the letter submitted by Captain Adam Richardson requesting an additional pilot apprentice will be added to next meeting's Agenda.

6. New Business

(a) Development of Pilotage Incident/Accident Investigative Officer resources

- Chair Gash stated that it would be ideal if three to four pre-approved investigative officers could be called upon to handle any future incidents so the CT Pilot Commission would be in a position to request investigative services from the CT Port Authority and the investigators would be a CT Port Authority resource.
- It was suggested perhaps an RFP should be issued. It was also suggested the Commission should find out what the investigative process is in NY and who they use for investigators. Commissioner Pohorylo volunteered to consult with NY.
- It was suggested that the new CT Port Authority Maritime position could assist in gathering information to give to the investigators for any future incidents.
- Marine Safety Information Bulletin (handout)
 - Chair Gash noted that this will be added to next meeting's Agenda.
 - U.S. Coast Guard attendees indicated someone will be available at the next meeting to discuss the bulletin.
- Interport Pilots Association request to begin the process of selecting one qualified CT Marine Pilot apprentice
 - Mike Eisele requested that they provide justification for the request, including the number of turns worked in 2023 and how it was spread amongst the pilots.
 - Captain Adam Richardson stated that they are making the request out of concern about being able to replace a pilot when needed.
 - There was discussion regarding age requirements for pilots and how other states and professions address this. Interport has a 70.5 year retirement age requirement.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Chris Clark, seconded by Mike Eisele. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 9:38am.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2024