



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024
9:00am**

Location:

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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The public meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Gash at 9:01am

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

CPC Members Absent: Captain Michael Peszke, Dave Pohorylo, Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Staff: Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Craig Martin (USACE), Arnold Skretta, Captain Sean Meade, Captain DJ Toby, Captain Robert McCollom, Captain Adam Richardson, Sean Byrnes, Captain Richard Astles, Captain Chris Murray

2. Approval of the February 6, 2024 meeting minutes

Request to amend the February 6th minutes to note under "CPC Members Absent" that Ralph Gogliettino was absent, and under "Public" that Captain Sean Meade was not in attendance and add that Captain Kyle Butler was in attendance.

Motion by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Chris Clark. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

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

None

4. U.S. Coast Guard Update

None

5. **US Army Corps of Engineers- New Haven Harbor Improvement Project Update**

Craig Martin, Senior Project Manager, Civil Works/Interagency and International Services Branch Programs and Project Management Division, New England District – USACE presented an update of the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project. He provided a summary of the Pilot Rankings from the simulations that they participated in regarding changes to the Entrance Bend and Turning Basin of the harbor. He also provided an update on the Design Status and noted that design is expected to be completed by February 2025, with construction expected to begin in Fall 2025. He also noted that they will have a final report of the Subsurface Survey in October.

Chair Gash requested that Craig Martin provide an update at a future Pilot Commission meeting in late summer or September.

Ulysses Hammond thanked the Pilots and Craig Martin for their participation and feedback.

6. **Continuing Business**

(a) Request for Additional Apprentice Pilot Update

- Michael Eisele noted that the pipeline for the appointment of a new pilot is approximately 12 months. At the last meeting, he requested that the Rotation Administrator provide information on the turns taken by each CT pilot in 2023. The information was provided to the Commissioners prior to the meeting, and discussed at the meeting with the Rotation Administrator and Pilots who answered questions and clarified the information.
- The process of solicitation of applicants for the CT Apprentice Marine Pilot Training and Certification Program was discussed, including discussion of the last solicitation in 2021.
- For the prior solicitation, the CT Pilot Commission evaluated candidates; there was a verbal and written exam; and interviews were conducted for selected candidates. A similar process will be followed for the new solicitation.
- Suggestions were made to create and maintain a list of apprentice candidates to pull from in case a selected apprentice does not start or complete training within a certain period of time, such as 1-2 years.

Motion by Michael Eisele that the CT Pilot Commission advise the CT Port Authority that it intends to begin the solicitation process to select a new Apprentice Pilot. Seconded by Wynne Bohannon. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(b) Pilotage Incident/Accident Investigative Officer Resources Update

- Tabled for discussion when Dave Pohorylo returns with updates

7. **New Business**

(a) Proposed Legislation

- Ulysses Hammond provided a summary of the proposed legislation under which the CT Port Authority would become a subsidiary of the CT Airport Authority and the Airport Authority's Board would become the Board of the Port Authority; it would remain quasi-public and would be re-named the CT Maritime Authority. He noted that the legislation is currently with the Appropriations Committee and that the current Legislative session ends in May. Commissioners provided feedback and expressed areas of concern and support.

(b) Pilot-imposed beam restrictions and tug requirements at New Haven Terminal

- Captain Astles noted that they have a meeting in mid-March with New Haven Terminal and noted Pilots that will be in attendance.
- There was discussion with the Commissioners and Pilots regarding the issues, and the Commissioners noted their support of the meeting.
- A request was made for an update on this item at next month's meeting.

Captain Joe Maco has an item regarding co-regs, study to be added to next meeting's Agenda for discussion with the U.S. Coast Guard.

8. **Adjourn**

Chair Gash noted that he will not be in attendance at the next meeting and that Commissioner Michael Eisele will chair the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2024