



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 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 9:00am.

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

CPC Members Absent: Dave Pohorylo, Captain Joseph Maco, Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Staff: Jill Dowling-Moreno, Fayola Haynes

Public: Captain DJ Toby, Captain Chris Murray, Captain Sean Meade, Captain Kyle Butler, Patrick Kennedy, Captain Adam Richardson, Arnold Skretta, Sean Byrnes, Captain Richard Astles

2. Approval of the April 2, 2024 meeting minutes

Motion by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Ulysses Hammond. So, VOTED with NO opposed and abstention by Chair Bill Gash.

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

Captain Astles discussed the multiple requests made by the pilots for soundings at both Gateway Terminals and New Haven Terminal over the last few years. He summarized a recent incident of the grounding of the Antwerp Eagle that the Coast Guard investigated, and referenced the incident involving the Sakura Bell. He has requested depths, but has not received that information. It was stated that the pilots' concerns be duly noted in the minutes.

Ulysses Hammond stated that he has spoken with Gateway regarding the request for soundings made by the pilots. It was suggested as a next step that the Connecticut Port Authority make a written request for the soundings. Ulysses Hammond requested additional information on the contacts made by the pilots to the terminals. Captain Astles will provide him with the information.

Captain Richardson provided an update regarding the two survey vessels in New Haven channel. Tentative meeting dates are scheduled for the end of June to meet with the Coast Guard and review emergency communication procedures. He provided an update on the roundtable attended with NY terminal operators. He noted that soundings are typically provided once a year or every two years, but in New Haven, they haven't received them for three years. It was noted that perhaps the Pilot Commission and the Authority should send a written request for the soundings.

Captain Richardson will follow-up with Ulysses Hammond after the meeting regarding the deepening project in New Haven.

Captain Richardson provided an update regarding apprentice pilot Robert McCollom, and stated that he continues to make good progress.

4. **U.S. Coast Guard Update**

None

5. **Continuing Business**

(a) Recruitment of Apprentice Pilots Policies and Procedures

- There was discussion regarding the materials provided and whether any updates or modifications are needed prior to the next solicitation for apprentice pilots.
- Suggestions were made to have a small group review the current documents as well as procedures used by other states.
- Ulysses Hammond provided an update on the hiring process for the Maritime Development Manager position, and the support this can provide to the process once on board in the upcoming months.

(b) Pilotage Incident/Accident Investigative Officer Resources Update

- Tabled for discussion when Dave Pohorylo returns with updates

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

- Captain Murray provided an update regarding repairs along the base of the dock and that they are awaiting reply. He noted the ten pilings with rubber degraded.

(d) Status of Recommendation to revise CPA Written Procedures regarding requirement that Pilots work under the auspices of Interport

- Mike Eisele asked if there was any input from the pilots regarding the draft recommendation, including any line edits or revisions.
- Captain Richardson offered feedback and changing the language to Inteport Pilots Association from the corporate name of Interport Pilots Agency, Inc. He stated that the safest, most efficient way to administer state piloting is through a single, unified Association and that is industry standard.
- Sean Byrnes has reviewed the expressed concerns. He noted that a consolidated group association typically delivers the best service in this situation, and discussed reasons that Interport was set-up in the way that it was. He will bring something in writing to the next meeting to address apprentice pilots working under the auspices of an association instead of a corporation.
- Consensus of stakeholders that Interport come back with action to the next Pilot Commission meeting before bringing a recommendation to the Authority's Board.

(e) Baltimore Incident

- This was a follow-up discussion regarding the incident. There was discussion regarding the differences between the bridge in Baltimore and the bridges and traffic in CT. The Gold Star Bridge in New London and use of tugs were discussed.

6. New Business

None

7. Adjourn

Motion by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Ulysses Hammond. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 10:09am.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2024