



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2024
9:00am

Location:

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

DRAFT 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, Dave Pohorylo, Captain Joseph Maco, Chris Clark, Wynne Bohannon

CPC Members Absent: Captain Michael Peszke, Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Staff: Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Captain DJ Toby, Captain Chris Murray, Captain Sean Meade, Captain Kyle Butler, Captain Adam Richardson, Captain Richard Astles, Captain Charles Jonas, Captain Patrick Kennedy, Stephen Feminella, Arnold Skretta, Sean Byrnes, CDR Eric Hanson (USCG), LT Colette Digerness (USCG), LT Greg Velliky (USCG)

2. Approval of the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes

Chair Gash noted to move ahead to Item #3 until quorum was reached as Commissioners were still arriving.

After Public Comment concluded and quorum was reached, a motion was made to approve the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion by Mike Eisele, seconded by Ulysses Hammond. So, VOTED with NO opposed and abstention by Dave Pohorylo.

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

- Patrick Kennedy noted the docking simulations he attended.
- Joe Maco noted the VRM certs for pilot license renewals, and there was brief discussion regarding the trainings.

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

Chair Gash decided to move ahead to Item #5 until USCG attendees arrived.

After Item #5c, LT Colette Digerness provided an update on Mohawk Dredging Thames River and noted that divers are down laying cable. She noted that daily or weekly update emails are being sent out, and that if Pilots have any issues getting through or around, to let USCG know.

5. **Continuing Business**

(a) CT Pilot Apprentice Progress Update (Interport)

- Adam Richardson provided an update regarding apprentice pilot Robert McCollom, and stated that he continues to ride and get trips.

(b) Recruitment of Apprentice Pilots Policies and Procedures

- There was discussion regarding the need for the Commission to review and perhaps update the criteria and process.
- Ulysses Hammond noted that a Maritime Development Manager is coming on board at the Authority starting June 14th and will provide administrative assistance in the review of the Pilot recruitment process. He thanked Dave Pohorylo and the members of the Selection Committee for their assistance in the hiring process. He noted that an introduction of the Maritime Development Manager will be included at the next Commission meeting.

(c) Pilotage Incident/Accident Investigative Officer Resources Update

- Dave Pohorylo provided an update regarding his conversations with contacts in NY and NH on how they handle pilot incidents and investigations, and how they work with the U.S. Coast Guard in these instances.
- CDR Hanson noted the need to work more closely with the U.S. Coast Guard in these instances.
- There was discussion about what happens to a Pilot once the Coast Guard issues a report and if the license is suspended pending investigation. The consensus was that a Pilot could be suspended given the severity of the situation.

Chair Gash circled back to Item #4, and then proceeded with the sub-items below.

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

- Chris Murray noted that they submitted a plan to complete the dock repairs until they receive soundings. He noted that they still haven't received the requested soundings from New Haven Terminal or Gateway. Chair Gash noted a request has been made but no response to date. Wynne Bohannon noted that the request should be made as an issue of safety.
- There was discussion regarding what is within the control of Connecticut Port Authority and Connecticut Pilot Commission, and if there could be changes to the legislation to require soundings.
- Ulysses Hammond and Richard Astles agreed to follow-up on this item after the meeting.

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

- Connecticut Pilots submitted a handout of Articles of Association of Connecticut State Pilots for review and discussion.
- Chair Gash noted that this is regarding removing the mention of Interport in the CPA Written Procedures as a follow-up to the discussion at Commission meetings over the last several months.
- The Commissioners asked for time to review the information that the Pilots submitted and to discuss it at the next Commission meeting. Chair Gash noted

that if Commissioners have thoughts after they have reviewed the materials, to send them to him for dissemination to the Commission.

- Joe Maco noted for clarification that the handout was generated by the CT Licensed Pilots and not from the CPA.

6. **New Business**

Chair Gash noted an item for discussion under New Business regarding a question that Ulysses Hammond received regarding whether a state pilot license is required in order for a vessel or large yacht to access the Norwich City dock at the end of the Thames River.

- Mike Eisele provided information in a handout to the Commission regarding the applicable Connecticut General Statutes.
- Ulysses Hammond was asked to follow-up with the person who raised the Norwich access and license issue for greater clarification.

(a) MV Jay, Reduced Visibility-Navigation bridge

- Chair Gash noted the projected photo for reference regarding the issue of reduced visibility on the navigation bridge on MV Jay enroute to the Port of New London delivering blades to State Pier.
- Mike Eisele provided a handout to the Commissioners regarding Revolution Wind Blade Imports which included a Letter of Deviation (LOD) Navigation Bridge Visibility from CDR Hanson.
- There was lengthy discussion by the Pilots, Commissioners and USCG regarding what occurred when the vessel arrived at the Port of New London, including discussion of safety concerns and SOLAS requirements.
- Discussion included the use of two pilots and cameras. Discussion also included commercial pressure once ship is at the port. It was noted that this is not a one-off situation and that more loads are scheduled.
- Richard Astles stated that it is unsafe for the vessels loaded with the blades in their current configuration.
- There was discussion regarding the next loads of blades that are scheduled to be delivered to State Pier and that they are being held overseas.
- CDR Hanson provided additional details regarding the Letter of Deviation and MSIB.

Joe Maco made a motion that the Connecticut Pilot Commission exists for safety reasons and that the unsafe situation of MV Jay was accepted but that these vessels as presently loaded are not safe and are unsafe to come into a Connecticut port.

Motion by Joe Maco, seconded by Dave Pohorylo. So, VOTED with Ulysses Hammond and Mike Eisele opposed and NO abstentions (Wynne Bohannon was not in attendance for the vote).

(b) Update regarding selection of one new CT Licensed Apprentice Pilot

- Tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

7. **Adjourn**

Motion by Mike Eisele, seconded by Chris Clark. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions (Wynne Bohannon and Ulysses Hammond were not in attendance). Meeting adjourned at 10:19am.

Next Meeting: July 2, 2024