



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, July 2, 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 Vice-Chair Mike Eisele at 9:02 a.m.

CPC Members in Attendance: Vice-Chair Mike Eisele, Wynne Bohannon, Joe Maco, Chris Clark, CPA Executive Director Ulysses Hammond

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

CPA Staff: Eric Dussault

Public: Captain Chris Murray, Captain Adam Richardson, Captain Richard Astles, Captain Patrick Kennedy, Sean Byrnes

Ulysses Hammond introduced Eric Dussault, CPA Maritime Development Manager.

Eric Dussault briefly addressed the commission to introduce himself.

2. Approval of the June 4, 2024 meeting minutes

Motion by Wynn Bohannon, seconded by Ulysses Hammond. So VOTED with NO and opposed and NO abstentions.

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

- Adam Richardson noted he met with USCG Representatives including Captain of the Port to discuss emergency procedures and share emergency contacts. Discussion included ways to collaborate on how federal, state, local and pilots can assist each other during emergency situations.

- Adam Richardson noted the borings in New Haven Harbor had started as part of U.S. Army Corp New Haven Improvement project.
- There was discussion between Mike Eisele, Joe Maco and Adam Richardson regarding Gold Star Bridge in New London as it relates to vessel size transiting under the bridge on Thames River.

4. U.S. Coast Guard Update

- No representative present from U.S. Coast Guard

5. Continuing Business

(a) CT Pilot Apprentice Progress Update (Interport)

- Adam Richardson provided an update regarding apprentice pilot Robert McCollom, and stated he continues to ride and make trips. Robert McCollom is currently approved to sit for his Western Long Island Sound and Bridgeport Harbor certification. Adam Richardson noted he anticipated McCollom completing Pilot License application with CPA during Q1 2025.
- There was a discussion on various levels of licenses held by current, past and apprentice pilots.

(b) Apprentice Pilot Recruitment

Policy and Procedure Review

- Mike Eisele noted the need for Apprentice Pilots Policy and Procedures to be reviewed.
- Ulysses Hammond advised that CPA Maritime Development Manager, Eric Dussault will be leading a working group to review and return to CPC with recommendations. Mike Eisele and Joe Maco agreed to be a part of the working group and recommended the pilots have representation as well. Adam Richardson agreed to be a part of the working group.

(c) New Haven Terminal Update

- Richard Astles stated there is no update however operations at Gateway Terminal are being conducted in accordance with the pilots' request.
- Richard Astles provided brief overview of reasons behind the pilot-imposed beam restrictions and tug requirements.

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

- Mike Eisele noted that Dave Pohorylo should be part of this agenda item.
- Tabled for discussion until next regular meeting.

(e) Navigation Bridge- Reduced Visibility

- There was lengthy discussion regarding vessels arriving to New London State Pier with wind components/parts with reduced visibility from the bridge.
- Richard Astles noted the pilots goal is to ensure all vessels are in compliance with both SOLAS and IMO regulations as it relates to visibility. He discussed the need for vessels to have a third party survey prior to departing port to ensure cargo conforms with IMO and SOLAS regulations. He stated the importance of pilots having visibility and indicated cameras are not a safe substitute for clear line of sight from the conning station.
- Richard Astles referenced a survey used in New Bedford prior to vessels arriving to ensure compliance and safe passage into New Bedford Harbor. Surveys are port specific based on each individual port's features.
- Ulysses Hammond noted the need for a process in which all parties involved can ensure vessels are compliant prior to arriving in New London. He stated the current process of the pilots reviewing stow plans and determining compliance is not sustainable as number of arrivals increase in the future. He commended and thanked Richard Astles, Adam Richardson and Chris Murray on their participation at a June 24th meeting between Scan Global Logistics, USCG, CPA and pilot representatives regarding vessel visibility.
- Adam Richardson noted that vessels currently being utilized are bulk carriers specifically designed to hold cargo below deck and not have structures built on top to stow blades.
- Joe Maco noted that it seems the only issue is visibility and it should be confirmed after loading cargo.
- Mike Eisele noted that turning vessels away could make New London State Pier appear uncompetitive for operations. He supported a 3rd party survey of vessels bound for New London to ensure compliance once cargo is loaded.
- It was the consensus of the Commission that the CPA should advance, on behalf of the Pilots and Commission, support for a surveyor or third party to provide certification of CFR and SOLAS compliance upon the loading of offshore wind vessels bound for Connecticut, and New London in particular.

6. New Business

- No new business brought forward.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Wynn Bohannon, seconded by Chris Clark. So VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2024