



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2024
9:00am

Location:

CT Port Authority Office
455 Boston Post Road
Suite 204
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 9:01am.

CPC Members in Attendance: Chair Bill Gash; Vice-Chair Mike Eisele; Joe Maco; Wynne Bohannon

CPC Members Absent: Chris Clark; Dave Pohorylo; Michael Peszke; Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Staff: Eric Dussault; Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Adam Richardson; DJ Toby; Pat Kennedy Sr.; Sean Byrnes; Arnold Skretta; Richard Astles

Bill Gash noted no quorum at today's meeting. He noted that discussion of Agenda items would be for informational purposes, and can be carried to the November Meeting Agenda for any items that require motions.

Joe Maco noted that he will not be in attendance for the next meeting which is scheduled for November 5th.

2. Approval of the July 2, 2024 meeting minutes

No quorum, table for next meeting

3. Approval of the September 10, 2024 minutes

No quorum, table for next meeting

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

Pat Kennedy Sr. noted the point system for the Western Long Island Sound for apprentice pilot selection, and that Thames River North is not counted for points. Eric Dussault will get clarification to bring back to the Commission next meeting.

5. U.S. Coast Guard Update

Not in attendance

6. Continuing Business

(a) CT Pilot Apprentice Progress Update (Interport)

- Adam Richardson provided an update regarding apprentice pilot Robert McCollom and stated that he is doing a trip with Kyle Butler and continues to make good progress.
- Bill Gash requested that Adam Richardson keep the Commission apprised of apprentice pilot McCollom's milestones and dates.

(b) Apprentice Pilot Recruitment

- **Apprentice Pilot Solicitation Update (Eric Dussault)**
 - Eric Dussault provided an update regarding the apprentice pilot solicitation and noted that it has been posted on Connecticut Port Authority's website, as well as published in four publications. He noted the November 1, 2024 due date. He also noted that they are looking for one (1) apprentice pilot.
- **Apprentice Pilot Qualifications Review Working Group Update (Eric Dussault)**
 - Eric Dussault noted that the working group will be meeting immediately following this meeting today to continue their review of the apprentice pilot qualifications.

(c) CT Licensed Pilots Association Discussion and Review of Articles of Association

- The pilots provided a draft Articles of Association to the Commission at the June meeting.
- Bill Gash asked the Commissioners if they had any feedback regarding the draft.
- Joe Maco requested the Commissioners take this time to review and discuss the draft.
- The Commissioners present at the meeting reviewed and discussed the draft.
 - Discussion included: purpose of the proposed Association; questions and clarifications regarding current structure with Interport; CT licensed pilots and how they currently work with Interport; how it works in other states; potential issues and concerns; pilots getting to and from vessels; role of the state in licensing pilots; Interport's role in training and transporting apprentice pilots; commerce and free market; potential name change to Interport; pilots working in multiple states; need for a qualified pool of apprentice pilot candidates; discussion of strengths and concerns with the Association proposal; discussion of previous apprentice solicitation; pilots are 1099 and work under their own names; no dues paid to Interport; pilots being licensed by the state to best serve the needs of the state; question if pilots can be licensed only in CT instead of multiple states with concerns expressed regarding the need for professional, experienced pilots to maximize utility and income; potential name changes to either Interport Pilots Association or CT Pilots Association instead of the current listing of Interport's corporation; discussion and clarification of Interport's corporation; discussion of federal and state pilot licenses; discussion of the importance of the safety of pilots over profits.
 - An option to change the name of Interport that is listed in the regulations to an Association from an Agency was discussed.
 - It is currently listed in the regulations as Interport Pilots Agency Inc., d.b.a. Connecticut State Pilots and could be changed to Interport Pilot Association.
 - Sean Byrnes, attorney for Interport, to provide Bylaws and Working Rules of Interport to the Connecticut Pilot Commission.

- Discussion will be continued at the next Commission meeting in November.

7. **Connecticut Port Authority Executive Director Search Update**

Eric Dussault provided an update and noted that the Connecticut Port Authority Executive Director vacancy on the Connecticut Pilot Commission will remain vacant until there is a new Executive Director.

8. **Annual CT Pilots License Renewal Announcement (Eric Dussault)**

Eric Dussault noted that reminders will be sent out this week for annual pilot license renewals. He requested that pilots return their materials early before the December 1, 2024 deadline.

9. **New Business**

Joe Maco noted recency trip requirements in areas and asked the pilots if there were any known issues. No known issues were stated.

10. **Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 10:12am. It was noted that the next meeting will be kept as scheduled for November 5, 2024 at 9:00am.

Next Meeting: November 5, 2024