



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

**Tuesday, September 10, 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; Vice-Chair Mike Eisele; Joe Maco; Chris Clark

CPC Members Absent: Wynne Bohannon; Dave Pohorylo; Michael Peszke; Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Staff: Eric Dussault; Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Sean Meade; Adam Richardson; Pat Kennedy Sr.; Sean Byrnes; Arnold Skretta; Chris Murray

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 October Meeting Agenda for any items that require motions.

2. Approval of the July 2, 2024 meeting minutes

No quorum, table for October Meeting.

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

None

4. U.S. Coast Guard Update

Not in attendance.

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 with a concentration on Long Island Sound and New Haven. McCollom is approved to sit and test for Bridgeport Harbor and Western Long Island Sound. He noted that it is anticipated McCollom will complete his Pilot License application with the Authority during Q1 2025.

(b) Apprentice Pilot Recruitment

▪ **Approval of Apprentice Pilot Solicitation Material**

- Eric Dussault noted that the Connecticut Pilot Commission approved going out for an apprentice pilot solicitation in March. He made reference to the solicitation announcement draft provided to the Commissioners for today's meeting, and that the solicitation will go out soon and will be posted on the Authority's website, along with being announced in four (4) local publications.

▪ **Status of Apprentice Pilot Qualifications Review Working Group**

- Eric Dussault noted that he is joined on the Working Group by Joe Maco, Mike Eisele and Adam Richardson. He noted that they have held their first meeting, and that they will hold their second meeting soon (hybrid meeting). He noted that they will be reviewing requirements and qualifications for apprentice pilot program. Once the review is complete, recommendations will be brought to the Connecticut Pilot Commission then the Connecticut Port Authority Board of Directors.

(c) CT Licensed Pilots Association

- Bill Gash noted that the Connecticut Pilots submitted a handout of Articles of Association of Connecticut State Pilots to the Commissioners at a prior meeting (June 4, 2024). He noted that the handout will be provided to Eric Dussault for his review, and then will remain under Continuing Business on the next meeting Agenda.

(d) Deep Water Ports Update – Bridgeport, New Haven, New London (Eric Dussault)

▪ **New London**

- Eric Dussault provided an update regarding New London and the increased number of ships docking at New London State Pier with Revolution Wind underway.
- Bill Gash asked if all of the CT Licensed Pilots have experienced these vessels in New London, and they noted that DJ Toby, Kyle Butler, Adam Richardson, Sean Meade and Charlie Jonas have.
- It was noted that the height issue with visibility was resolved and the ships now arrive with 5 or 7 blades loaded instead of 9. The Pilots thanked Ulysses Hammond and Eric Dussault for coordinating and hosting the meeting that assisted in the resolution of this issue. Joe Maco thanked all parties involved and noted that ensuring safety is the part of the responsibilities of the Connecticut Pilot Commission.
- There was discussion regarding vessels continuing to deliver offshore wind components in the winter with a slow-down in traffic in the winter is typical.
- The uniqueness of the Port of New London was discussed in comparison to other ports in the region in regards to its ability to receive offshore wind components.

▪ **New Haven**

- Eric Dussault noted that the borings were complete and the barge is out. It was noted that the communication with the contractor has been good. Adam Richardson noted that the contractor has been great to work with.
- Eric Dussault noted that he will continue to meet with USACE monthly regarding the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project.
- There was discussion regarding the CAD cell estimates. Bill Gash asked where the CAD cell is and Eric Dussault will follow-up to get an answer to that.

- Bridgeport
 - Eric Dussault provided an update regarding the Bridgeport/Black Rock Harbor project with USACE. It was noted that the USACE has identified 15 alternate placement sites as part of its Dredged Material Management Plan. USACE estimated final plan to be completed in Spring 2025 and begin the design phase of the project. Eric Dussault will provide further updates at the next meeting.

6. **New Business**

Mike Eisele asked about the Connecticut Port Authority Executive Director Commissioner vacancy on the Commission now that Ulysses Hammond has retired from the Authority. Mike Eisele asked if Eric Dussault should be appointed to fill the Commission vacancy until the Port Authority hires a new Executive Director. Eric Dussault commented that he serves in an administrative function to the commission and did not feel it was appropriate to also sit on the same commission. Eric Dussault will follow-up internally and provide an update regarding the vacancy at the next meeting.

Joe Maco noted the accident that occurred in Old Saybrook and there was discussion regarding the incident and any potential enhancement options that are being considered.

7. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Next Meeting: October 1, 2024