



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
9:00am

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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Bill Gash called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

CPC Members in Attendance: Chair Bill Gash; Vice-Chair Mike Eisele; Chris Clark; Wynne Bohannon; Michael Peszke

CPC Members Absent: Dave Pohorylo; Joe Maco; Ralph Gogliettino

CPA Board & Staff: CPA Board Chair Paul Whitescarver; Fayola Haynes; Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Chris Murray; Sean Meade; James Gura; Pat Kennedy; Sean Byrnes; Matt Butcka

Bill Gash welcomed Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) Board Chair Paul Whitescarver, CAPT, USN (Ret), Executive Director of Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer), and asked the public attendees to introduce themselves. It was noted that Paul Whitescarver is attending the Connecticut Pilot Commission meeting given the staffing vacancies at the CPA in the Executive Director and Maritime Development Manager positions.

2. Approval of the July 2, 2024, September 10, 2024 and October 1, 2024 meeting minutes

Bill Gash noted that a quorum is convened for today's meeting and that the minutes for the previous three meetings were before the Commissioners for approval as quorum had not been convened at those meetings.

Motion by Mike Eisele, seconded by Wynne Bohannon. So VOTED, with NO opposed and an abstention by Paul Whitescarver.

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

Public Comment was made by Pat Kennedy. Pat Kennedy provided an estimated time line of construction of the Navy RF Range in New London Harbor- Main channel. He stated he is working with the contractors providing marine support and his waterfront property for staging of the project.

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

Not in attendance

5. **Continuing Business**

(a) CT Pilot Apprentice Progress Update (Interport)

- Sean Meade provided an update regarding apprentice pilot Robert McCollum, including some of the trips completed and to be completed and that he continues to make good progress. He noted that anticipated completion time may occur in Q1 2025 if traffic allows.

(b) Apprentice Pilot Recruitment

▪ Apprentice Pilot Application Update

- Bill Gash asked CPA Office Manager Jill Dowling-Moreno to provide an update regarding apprentice pilot exams. She noted that two out of the three applicants had completed their exams with the other one to be scheduled later in December.

▪ Apprentice Pilot Qualifications Review Working Group Update

- Mike Eisele noted that previous Maritime Development Manager, Eric Dussault, had led this group and that likely they would wait until a new Maritime Development Manager had been hired to reconvene the group.
- Paul Whitescarver asked for background information regarding the formation of the group.
- Bill Gash noted that the working group was convened to review apprentice pilot qualifications and described the current process to ensure a pipeline of apprentice pilots. He noted that the current solicitation was posted for one additional apprentice pilot to adequately meet anticipated needs.
- Paul Whitescarver provided information regarding his background and experience as Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London and offered to assist with the review process.
- The process for making a recommendation to the Board of Directors of the CPA was reviewed.
- Wynne Bohannon noted that during the last apprentice pilot solicitation, one out of three apprentice pilot applicants was selected and was sufficient for the needs at that time.
- Bill Gash asked Jill Dowling-Moreno to schedule a meeting for the working group, consisting of Mike Eisele, Joe Maco, and Adam Richardson with the addition of Paul Whitescarver, to reconvene in the beginning of January 2025.
- Mike Eisele and Wynne Bohannon noted that the working group would review qualifications taking into account offshore wind operations at the port, and would review the criteria weighting.

(c) Discussion and possible action to change language in CT Agencies Regulations 15-15a-7 regarding newly licensed pilots.

- **To rescind the motion and vote at the September 12, 2023 CT Pilot Commission meeting to remove the language from section (c) of the Conn. Agencies Regs. 15-15a-7 that it's mandatory for pilots to work under Interport.**
 - There was brief discussion and background information was provided. This item will be continued on the January meeting agenda.
- **The CT Pilot Commission recommends to the CT Port Authority Board of Directors to modify the language from section (c) of the Conn. Agencies Regs.**

15-15a-7 from Interport Pilots Agency, Inc. d.b.a. Connecticut State Pilots to Interport Pilot Association.

- Bill Gash noted that Interport had just provided the draft and the Commissioners agreed they need time to review the draft before discussion. This item will be continued on the January meeting agenda.

6. Connecticut Port Authority Executive Director Search Update

Paul Whitescarver provided an update regarding the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) Executive Director search process. He noted that it is possible that a candidate may be voted on at the upcoming CPA Board Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2024. He also provided an update regarding the search for a new Maritime Development Manager since Eric Dussault resigned from the position in November. He noted that Flagship Management is the search firm assisting with these recruitments and that the positions are posted on their website.

The Commissioners discussed the Connecticut Pilot Commission (CPC) members and appointing authorities. Bill Gash noted the sad passing of Commissioner Ralph Gogliettino. He noted that he has reached out to Senate Majority Leader Duff's office regarding the vacancy.

Mike Eisele read through the list of the nine (9) CPC members and appointing authorities. The Executive Director of the Connecticut Port Authority vacancy will be filled by CPA Board Chair Paul Whitescarver in the absence of an Executive Director.

Wynne Bohannon requested that the Commissioners be informed sooner if quorum will not be able to be convened for an upcoming meeting.

7. New Business

(a) Approval of 2025 CT Pilot Commission Meeting Calendar

Bill Gash referenced the draft 2025 Public Meeting Schedule that was distributed to the Commissioners for their review.



**CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION
2025 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE**

Meetings are held in-person at the CT Port Authority Office
455 Boston Post Road, Suite 204
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, January 7, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, February 4, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, March 4, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, April 1, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, May 6, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, June 3, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, July 1, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
NO MEETING	AUGUST 2025	NO MEETING
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, September 9, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, October 7, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	CT Port Authority Office
9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, December 2, 2025	CT Port Authority Office

Motion to adopt the Connecticut Pilot Commission 2025 Public Meeting Schedule made by Mike Eisele, seconded by Wynne Bohannon. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Mike Eisele asked if the schedule would be filed with the Secretary of State. Bill Gash noted that it would be posted to the Connecticut Port Authority website.

(b) Selection and Approval of CT Pilot Commission Interview & Application Review Committee for Apprentice Pilot Program

Mike Eisele noted that the committee members include himself, Joe Maco and Wynne Bohannon. He noted that Joe Maco will not be available to meet until January. Wynne Bohannon noted that for the previous apprentice pilot solicitation that he and Dave Pohorylo served on the selection committee.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Mike Eisele, seconded by Wynne Bohannon. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 9:34am.

Next Meeting: January 7, 2025