



Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025
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; Joe Maco; Paul Liistro; Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) Executive Director Michael O'Connor

CPC Members Absent: Michael Peszke; Dave Pohorylo

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

Public: James Gura; Chris Murray; Adam Richardson; Sean Meade; Arnold Skretta; Pat Kennedy; CDR Eric Hanson (USCG)

2. Approval of the December 3, 2024 meeting minutes

Motion by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Mike Eisele. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

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

Pat Kennedy noted the point system for the apprentice pilot program regarding Eastern and Western Long Island Sound and other locations, the last apprentice pilot solicitation and how points are awarded for these locations. There was discussion with the Rotation Administrator, Pilots and Commissioners regarding the inquiry.

4. U.S. Coast Guard Update

This item was discussed after Item #7. CDR Eric Hanson, USCG Sector Long Island Sound provided a brief introduction.

5. Continuing Business

(a) CT Pilot Apprentice Progress Update (Interport)

- Adam Richardson provided an update regarding apprentice pilot Robert McCollum and noted that he is approximately 75% complete with trips, with anticipated completion by the end of the first quarter of 2025.
- Bill Gash asked about the typical length of time for an apprentice pilot to complete the training program. It was noted that it takes approximately one to three years for completion.
- Once the apprentice completes the training program, the Commission would review the package and then make a recommendation to the Board of the Connecticut Port Authority regarding licensure.
- Michael O'Connor noted that a Special Board Meeting could be scheduled if needed for timely attention to a recommendation once received.

(b) Apprentice Pilot Recruitment

▪ Apprentice Pilot Application Update

- Jill Dowling-Moreno noted that no further written exams were completed since the last meeting.
- Bill Gash inquired further about the apprentice pilot applicant that had not taken the written exam and noted that he would follow-up further with Jill Dowling-Moreno after the meeting.
- It was noted that a time was to be scheduled for the committee that would review and score the packages, and that any interviews could be held in-person at the Connecticut Port Authority's office.

▪ Apprentice Pilot Qualifications Review Working Group Update

- It was noted that a meeting would be scheduled for the working group to reconvene. The group members are Mike Eisele, Joe Maco, and Adam Richardson, with the addition of Paul Whitescarver.

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

Bill Gash noted that this item has been under discussion for some time. He noted the Articles of Association of Connecticut State Pilots that had been provided to the Commission for review. There was discussion regarding Interport, membership, pilot boats, assets and associations.

Bill Gash introduced the items for consideration:

- **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.**
- **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 Connecticut Pilot Association.**

Motion by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Joe Maco.

Mike Eisele noted that the Connecticut Pilot Association does not yet exist. He asked if the Pilots agreed with the recommendation. Adam Richardson noted that the Pilots agree.

So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Mike Eisele noted that he will draft a letter, including background information, from the Connecticut Pilot Commission to submit this recommendation to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Port Authority. He noted that he will circulate the draft to the Commission

for feedback. Once Bill Gash signs the letter, he would send it to Michael O'Connor for submission to the Board.

6. **Connecticut Port Authority Executive Director Introduction**

Bill Gash welcomed the new Executive Director of the Connecticut Port Authority Michael J. O'Connor. Michael O'Connor provided an introduction of his background and experience, including executive leadership during his time as Site Vice President of Millstone Power Station.

Bill Gash welcomed new member of the Connecticut Pilot Commission Paul Liistro. Paul Liistro provided an introduction of his background, experience and interest in the Commission and the maritime economy.

7. **New Business**

Adam Richardson thanked the U.S. Coast Guard and Commander Hanson for their Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) regarding counterfeit pilot ladders. He also thanked Jill Dowling-Moreno for her assistance in expediting the issuance of the 2025 pilot licenses.

Adam Richardson noted that updated soundings are still needed for Gateway Harbor Terminal. He noted that Rich Astles spoke with Greg Baribault at Gateway Terminal regarding this matter. Bill Gash noted that as suggested at previous meetings, that Adam Richardson provide a letter regarding this request through the Rotation Administrator. Joe Maco noted the need for maintenance dredging at the terminal. There was further discussion with the Commissioners, Pilots, Shipping Agent, CPA and USCG including safety, restrictions in ship size, draft change, depth and berth, and notice to mariners.

(a) CT Pilot Commission Interview & Application Review Committee for Apprentice Pilot Program

This item was also discussed under Item #5(b). Bill Gash noted that Jill Dowling-Moreno will reach out to the Committee, which includes Mike Eisele, Wynne Bohannon and Paul Whitescarver, to schedule a time for them to review and score the apprentice pilot applicant packages.

8. **Adjourn**

Michael O'Connor noted that he would be designating Paul Whitescarver, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Port Authority, to the seat on the Commission designated for the Executive Director of the Connecticut Port Authority ["as the executive director of the authority or the executive director's designee" in accordance with P.A. 15-5 Sec. 23(b)]. Michael O'Connor noted that he will continue to be involved and attend Commission meetings.

Motion to adjourn by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Michael O'Connor. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2025