



CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

NOTICE OF
REGULAR MEETING OF
CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
12:00 PM

Location: Connecticut Port Authority
455 Boston Post Rd., Suite 204
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Zoom link was provided.

**Please Note: In addition to the minutes below, an audio recording of this meeting can be found on the Authority's website at <https://ctportauthority.com/governance/>*

Board Attendance

Chair Paul Whitescarver; Vice-Chair Grant Westerson; David Kooris; Gaffney Feskoe; John Johnson; Paul O. Robertson; Paul Hinsch; Tom Patton; Felix Reyes; Doug Dalena; Brian Thompson; Dave Pohorylo; Kristin Urbach; Tom Gill

Absent: Mayor Justin Elicker; Chuck Roman

CPA Staff/Other: Michael O'Connor; Fayola Haynes; Andrea Sangrey; Jill Dowling-Moreno; Marlin Peterson (AECOM)

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman of the Board Paul Whitescarver called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

2. Approval of minutes of the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and an abstention by Dave Pohorylo.

Kristin Urbach and Tom Gill joined after the vote was taken.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Finance Committee Update

(Begins at 2:40 of the audio recording)

Finance Committee Co-Chair David Kooris provided a brief summary of the Finance Committee's meeting held that morning at 10:00am and noted that the Committee reviewed the monthly financials and did not take any actions. Paul Whitescarver asked if there was a need for the committee to continue meeting monthly with the financials being stable and most changes occurring quarterly. Michael O'Connor noted that the by-laws will be reviewed to provide an update to the Board at the May meeting. David Kooris noted the option to cancel the April meeting if there is nothing to discuss.

5. Executive Director Update

(Begins at 3:54 of the audio recording)

Michael O'Connor noted he is in his twelfth week as Executive Director. He began his update by introducing Andrea Sangrey, Maritime Development Manager, who will be working on dredging, SHIPP and other grants. He noted the potential for a Community Liaison as an item to discuss at the next HR Committee meeting. He provided an update on the RFP for Communications & Marketing and noted that interviews have been scheduled with the top four firms. He thanked the Board members for their individual meetings with him. He provided a summary of the meetings he had in New Haven and has scheduled in Bridgeport.

Michael O'Connor provided details of his meetings and conversations regarding dredging, New Haven Harbor Improvement Project, Bridgeport and Black Rock Harbor Federal Navigation Project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States Study, and Pier 7 Fort Trumbull. David Kooris provided background information regarding the local match for the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project.

Michael O'Connor provided an update from the Connecticut Pilot Commission regarding selection of an apprentice pilot, Matthew Butcka, and he noted that the current apprentice pilot, Robert McCollom, is nearing completion. He also provided an update regarding the EPA Clean Ports Program grant and noted that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Engineering Services for the project has been issued. He noted that the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) applications that were approved by the Board in October are awaiting State Bond Commission action and that he expects this to be taken up at the next Bond Commission meeting as the towns are waiting to start their projects.

Michael O'Connor provided a summary of the groups and individuals he has met with. He also provided a summary of events he attended including Career Days at Norwich Free Academy and Guilford High School, and events held by the Chamber of Eastern CT. He also noted the conferences he plans to attend including CMA Shipping, Oceantic IPF Conference, and the North Atlantic Ports Association Annual Meeting.

There was brief discussion regarding Board vacancies and suggestions. Paul Whitescarver noted that suggestions can be passed along to him. Michael O'Connor noted his meeting with Mayor Elicker and his commitment for a designee to the Board. Paul Whitescarver also noted the importance of engaging the lower part of the state. Kristin Urbach asked about the logo and Michael O'Connor noted that the new logo will be used going forward and thanked Anthony Anthony in DECD.

6. Connecticut Pilot Commission Update

(Begins at 47:16 of the audio recording)

Michael O'Connor noted that the recommendation from the Connecticut Pilot Commission for the requested change to the marine pilots procedures was published in the Connecticut Law Journal for the 30-day comment period.

(a) Revision of Marine Pilots Procedures

Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing adoption of a revision to Connecticut Port Authority's Marine Pilots Procedures as recommended by the Connecticut Pilot Commission to eliminate the current requirement that newly-licensed pilots work under the auspices of Interport Pilots Agency, Inc., substituting instead a requirement that newly-licensed pilots work under the auspices of the Association of Connecticut State Pilots.

Paul Whitescarver introduced the item for consideration.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby accepts and adopts a revision to Connecticut Port Authority's Marine Pilots Procedures, as published in the Connecticut Law Journal Volume 86 No. 33 on February 11, 2025, as described in the form attached hereto as the Exhibit to Agenda Item #6a.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by Dave Pohorylo.

Dave Pohorylo provided background information regarding Interport Pilots Agency and the year-long discussion by the Commission that led to this recommendation.

So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Paul Whitescarver noted that he has been attending the Connecticut Pilot Commission meetings as Michael O'Connor's designee, and that Michael O'Connor has been in attendance as well. Paul Whitescarver noted his agreement with the recommendation.

7. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-210(b)(4) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, for the purpose of discussing CTSP close out actions involving the CMR.

(Begins at 51:42 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver certified that the public interest in the disclosure of the discussion of the Connecticut State Pier closeout actions involving the construction manager-at-risk is outweighed by the public interest in the confidentiality of the same.

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Section 1-210(b)(4) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of Directors present and voting, the Board hereby approves to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing CTSP close out actions involving the CMR.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by John Johnson.

Paul Whitescarver invited Michael O'Connor, Marlin Peterson, Jill Dowling-Moreno, Fayola Haynes and Andrea Sangrey into the Executive Session.

So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(Begins at 54:00 of the audio recording)

The Board returned from Executive Session at 2:28pm. Paul Whitescarver noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

8. Old Business

None

9. **New Business**

(Begins at 54:27 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver noted that he will contact a few Board members regarding an ad hoc Strategy Committee.

10. **Adjournment**

(Begins at 54:38 of the audio recording)

Motion to adjourn made by Grant Westerson, seconded by Doug Dalena. Meeting adjourned at 2:28pm