



CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025
9:00am**

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CPC Members in Attendance: Vice-Chair Mike Eisele; Wynne Bohannon; Joe Maco; Chris Clark; Paul Liistro; Kyle Butler

CPC Members Absent: Chair Bill Gash; Paul Whitescarver; Dave Pohorylo

CPA Staff: Michael O'Connor; Fayola Haynes; Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Adam Richardson; Robert McCollom; Matthew Butcka; Sean Meade; Conor Kennedy; Arnold Skretta

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Mike Eisele called the meeting to order at 9:00am. He welcomed Kyle Butler to the Pilot Commission as a new member elected by the majority of the Connecticut-licensed pilots, and thanked Michael Peszke for his years of service on the Commission.

2. Approval of the March 4, 2025 meeting minutes

Motion by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Chris Clark. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

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

Adam Richardson noted that Robert McCollom completed his requirements for licensure. Robert McCollom noted that he has applied with USCG for Western Long Island Sound and Bridgeport. Adam Richardson noted that Matthew Butcka is on board as an apprentice pilot, and that training is anticipated to go into the summer and will include pilot-of-record trips in Eastern Long Island Sound.

4. U.S. Coast Guard Update

Not in attendance

5. CPA Executive Director Report

Michael O'Connor noted that he will be attending the CMA Shipping conference in Stamford this week. Joe Maco noted that he will be in attendance as well.

Michael O'Connor noted that the Authority is planning to submit an application for a Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant for a plan to initiate container shipping in Connecticut and increase ship traffic in the harbors. Joe Maco noted a previous transportation study that he participated in for discussion. Michael O'Connor noted his meetings in New Haven and with CT-DEEP regarding dredging options for New Haven for safety of travel for ship traffic. He noted that the Authority will be working on process mapping for the Commission. Mike Eisele noted that the working group will be reviewing procedures.

6. Continuing Business

(a) CT Pilot Apprentice Progress Update (Interport)

This item was discussed during public comment (see Item 3).

(b) Review of documentation submitted by Apprentice Pilot Robert McCollom in support of request for licensure as a Connecticut State Marine Pilot.

Mike Eisele introduced the item and noted that he had asked Joe Maco and Wynne Bohannon to review Robert McCollom's application for licensure, including the pilot of record documentation and medical certificate. Mike Eisele noted that he found the application to be qualifying in all respects in meeting requirements of statute and procedures.

Motion by Joe Maco for a recommendation that Captain Robert McCollom be licensed to serve as a Connecticut State Marine Pilot in the following ports and waters: (1) CT State and Boundary Waters of Long Island Sound East of Stratford Shoals; (2) NY/CT Memorandum of Agreement Waters of Block Island Sound and Long Island Sound, East of Stratford Shoals; and (3) New Haven Harbor. Seconded by Wynne Bohannon.

So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Mike Eisele noted that he would draft a recommendation letter from the Commission to the Authority and forward it to the Commission for their review.

(c) Ship Arrivals

This item was not discussed.

7. New Business

Mike Eisele noted the change made to the marine pilot procedures that newly licensed marine pilots work under the auspices of the Association of Connecticut State Pilots. Arnold Skretta noted that they are in-process for the appointment of an agent for the association and are in touch with the Secretary of State's office. It was noted that Interport will continue in this capacity until there is an official Association of Connecticut State Pilots.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Paul Liistro. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2025