



**CONNECTICUT**  
Port Authority

**Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026**  
**9:00am**

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

**MINUTES**

**Connecticut Pilot Commission (CPC) Members**

**Present:** K. Wynne Bohannon; Captain Joseph Maco; Captain Kyle Butler; Christopher P. Clark; Paul Liistro; David E. Pohorylo; Paul A. Whitescarver

**Absent:** Chairman William C. Gash; Vice-Chairman Michael J. Eisele, Esq.

**Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) Staff:** Michael O'Connor; Jill Dowling-Moreno; Fayola Haynes; Melissa Root

**Public:** James Gura; Patrick Kennedy Jr.; Chris Murray; Adam Richardson; Arnold Skretta; Robert McCollom

**1. Call to Order**

Wynne Bohannon called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

**2. Approval of the February 3, 2026 meeting minutes**

Motion by Paul Whitescarver, seconded by Kyle Butler. So VOTED.

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

Public comment was made by Patrick Kennedy Jr. Wynne Bohannon noted that he may submit a letter with his concerns if he would like to have them addressed at a future meeting.

**4. U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Update**

Not in attendance

**5. Pilot Report**

**(a) Challenges to safety, near misses, lessons learned**

Kyle Butler noted there were none over the past month.

**(b) Harbor or equipment issues**

Kyle Butler noted that New Haven Lighted Buoy 8 was reported as a light out to USCG.

**(c) Activity in the previous calendar month – Connecticut Pilot support of marine traffic to/from which ports**

Kyle Butler noted activity for February with a total of 19 vessels including 12 tankers, 5 bulk carriers and 2 cargo, with 11 tankers and 5 bulk carriers to New Haven, 1 tanker to Riverhead and 2 cargo to New London.

**(d) Upcoming training status and needs**

Kyle Butler noted the pilots that recently completed tractor tug training and noted that Bridge Resource Management (BRM) training will be due in the fall.

**(e) CT Pilot Apprentice Update**

Kyle Butler noted that there are currently no apprentices and that the two newly licensed pilots continue to ride with senior pilots.

Paul Whitescarver asked if the pilots had discussed recent incidents regarding pilot ship to ship transfer. Chris Murray noted that Block Island Pilots will be holding a training with man overboard drills. Adam Richardson noted that there is a harness that is being worked on that they may have the opportunity to test in the future. Michael O'Connor noted that pilots can tell the captain of a ship if conditions are not safe to make a transfer. Wynne Bohannon asked the pilots in attendance to share what is discussed with pilots not in attendance. There was additional discussion including risk vs. gain in training, evaluating weather events, previous competitive environment and changes made for safety, and safety as the priority.

**6. CPA Executive Director Report**

Michael O'Connor noted that the CT Port Authority Board of Directors has three (3) new members: Sally Kruse, Harry Rilling and Jim Donegan. He provided updates and timelines regarding the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project. He noted that he will be attending the CMA Shipping Conference in Stamford next week. He also noted that he met with members of the Transportation Committee regarding requested legislative changes including removal of the pilot license fee.

**7. Continuing Business**

**(a) Proposed Revisions to Connecticut Port Authority Marine Pilot Procedures, Section III – Qualifications, Selection and Training for New Applicants for a License as a Connecticut State Marine Pilot**

Wynne Bohannon noted to move this item to the April meeting as Mike Eisele is not in attendance and the group did not meet after last meeting. Michael O'Connor requested that the group meet prior to the next meeting in April in order for the item to be addressed.

**(b) Rotation Administrators' Letter**

Michael O'Connor noted that Greg Baribault at Enstructure is setting up a meeting regarding this item and asked Chris Clark to follow-up.

**8. New Business**

This was addressed after item 5(e).

Joe Maco asked about electronic charts and how the pilots are using them. Kyle Butler noted that pilots use the electronic charts as a tool but not as the only reference. Pulling buoys was discussed and Kyle Butler noted that pilots would prefer to have all lighted buoys in New Haven

and that USCG had cleaned up ice on buoys and fixed those that were out of position. Adam Richardson noted that it is good practice to use the computer and buoys together and that it is not as good if only one is working.

9. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Paul Liistro, seconded by Kyle Butler. Meeting adjourned at 9:39am

**Next Meeting: April 7, 2026**