



CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026
9:00am**

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Connecticut Pilot Commission (CPC) Members

Present: Chairman William C. Gash; Vice-Chairman Michael J. Eisele, Esq.; K. Wynne Bohannon; Captain Kyle Butler; Christopher P. Clark; Captain Joseph Maco; Paul Liistro

Absent: David E. Pohorylo; Paul A. Whitescarver

Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) Staff: Michael O'Connor; Jill Dowling-Moreno

Public: Rich Astles; Patrick Kennedy Jr.; Robert McCollom; Sean Meade; Adam Richardson; Arnold Skretta; Donald Toby; Dan Sullivan; Dale Harper

1. Call to Order

Chairman Gash called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

CT Port Authority Executive Director Michael O'Connor noted that he provided a letter to Chairman Gash today stating that Paul A. Whitescarver had been serving as his designee to the CT Pilot Commission and that the designation has terminated and he will serve as a member of the Commission.

2. Approval of the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion by Christopher Clark, seconded by Michael O'Connor. There was discussion to table this until the remaining members arrived.

So VOTED, with NO opposed and abstentions made by William Gash and Michael Eisele.

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

None

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

Not in attendance

5. Pilot Report

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

None

(b) Harbor or equipment issues

Kyle Butler noted that New Haven Buoy 8 looks out of position and he will reach 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 March with a total of 21 vessels including 10 tankers, 8 bulk carriers, 2 cargo and the Wind Scylla, with tankers to New Haven and Riverhead, bulk carriers to New Haven, cargo and Wind Scylla to New London, and a Canadian Navy Ship in Long Island Sound. He noted that traffic was similar to January and February.

(d) Upcoming training status and needs

Kyle Butler noted that Bridge Resource Management (BRM) training will be due in November.

(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 in waters for which they are not yet licensed.

6. CPA Executive Director Report

Michael O'Connor provided an update regarding the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project. He noted that discussions continue with Orsted and Enstructure regarding potential future uses for State Pier and provided anticipated timeframe of second half of 2027 for availability at State Pier. He also noted a nomination hearing for the CPA Board for Robert Mezzo. There was discussion that included Harbor Masters, as well as abandoned boats. Michael O'Connor noted that people can reach out to him if they become aware of abandoned boats.

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

Michael Eisele provided an update regarding the working group and noted that they met in March and will be meeting again this month. He noted that they reviewed regulations from several states including Massachusetts, Florida, New Jersey, Washington and Rhode Island. He noted that the group discussed continuing to use objective criteria given the infrequency of apprentice pilot solicitations and that preparing an exam would not be an appropriate burden. He noted that with the upcoming working group discussion, he anticipates any proposed changes would be a few months out.

There was discussion including federal pilot licenses and exam requirements, charts and local knowledge, exams unique to area waters, exams in other states, federal pilots and ship officers, number of trips and recency. Michael O'Connor noted that the Transportation Committee voted to not charge the annual renewal fee for licenses and that this proposal was out of committee. In regard to any requests for legislative action, he noted timelines of November in preparation for the session next January.

(b) Rotation Administrators' Letter

Michael O'Connor noted that there is a meeting scheduled for April 15th in New Haven to discuss how to do business in the harbor for a more collaborative work environment. He

noted that he would forward the information to William Gash. There was additional discussion regarding activity in New Haven Harbor.

William Gash noted the Q2 Fuel Surcharge information that was provided to the Commissioners and noted that it would also be sent to them via email.

8. New Business

There was discussion regarding any noticed effects on tanker traffic with current conditions.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Wynne Bohannon, seconded by Paul Liistro. Meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Next Meeting: May 5, 2026