CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

NOTICE OF
REGULAR MEETING OF
CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, July 28, 2026
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; Doug Dalena; James Donegan; Gaffney Feskoe; Thomas Gill; John Johnson; David Kooris; Sally Kruse; Robert Mezzo; Kirti Patel; Dave Pohorylo; Harry Rilling; Kristin Urbach; Paul Hinsch

Absent: Felix Reyes; Christine Xenelis; Thomas Patton

Staff/Other: Michael O'Connor; Fayola Haynes; Jill Dowling-Moreno; Melissa Root; Anthony Afriyie; Conor Byrne; Caleb Ortiz Diaz; Luke Templeton; Jeff Caiola (CT-DEEP); Graham Stevens (CT-DEEP)

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 Board of Directors Regular Meeting on April 28, 2026, and the Special Meetings on May 13, 2026, May 28, 2026 and June 18, 2026.**

   Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 28, 2026, and Special Meetings on May 13, May 28 and June 18, 2026 made by Grant Westerson, seconded by John Johnson.

   Paul Whitescarver noted the Board members not present. Michael O'Connor noted the vacancy for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT-DEEP) Commissioner designee on the Board and noted that Jeff Caiola from CT-DEEP was in attendance.

   So, VOTED with NO opposed and abstentions by Thomas Gill, and by David Kooris for the April 28, 2026 meeting.

3. **Public Comment**

None

4. **Finance Committee Update**

(Begins at 03:05 of the audio recording)

Doug Dalena noted that the Finance Committee is recommending the OFA report to the Board for approval. Michael O'Connor noted that it is an unaudited report as the audit is in progress for FY 2026.

(a) FY 2026 Q4 Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) Report

Hear and act on a recommendation to authorize submission of the FY 2026 Q4 quarterly financial report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Motion to approve the OFA Quarterly Financial Status Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 made by David Kooris seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(b) Grant Programs

Paul Whitescarver introduced the two new grant programs put forth by staff.

i. Maritime Education Networking and Training Opportunity for Residents (MENTOR)- Futures Sponsorship Program

Hear and act on a recommendation to adopt the Connecticut Port Authority MENTOR - Futures Sponsorship Program Policy and Procedures.

Michael O'Connor noted that the MENTOR program focuses on Pre-K through Grade 12 students to support access to maritime education experiences. He noted that the program information will be publicly available with an ongoing application cycle. He noted that staff will review applications every 60 days and make recommendations to the Executive Director for his final approval. He noted that the program is funded under a budgeted line item and would proceed until all funds were awarded, noting that if there was a need for further funding, that a budget request would be made to the Board.

Motion to adopt the MENTOR-Futures Sponsorship Program Policy and Procedures made by Kristin Urbach, seconded by Sally Kruse. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

ii. Community Grant Program

Hear and act on a recommendation to approve the Connecticut Port Authority Community Grant Program Policy and Procedures subject to no substantial comments after the 30-day comment period.

Michael O'Connor noted the similarities to the MENTOR-Futures program including budgeting and noted the different focus of the program on Tourism Infrastructure, Community Activation, and Planning and Capacity Building for maritime activities in the state. He noted that policies and procedures for both programs were posted to the CT Law Journal for a 30-day public comment period, and that it is still within the public comment period for the Community Grant Program.

Motion to approve the Community Grant Program Policies and Procedures subject to no substantial comments after the 30-day public comment period made by Grant Westerson, seconded by Gaffney Feskoe.

Gaffney Feskoe congratulated staff on these initiatives. Michael O'Connor noted these programs as first steps towards putting funds in place for the Authority to support Connecticut's maritime economy.

So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

5. **Human Resources Committee Update**

(Begins at 8:51of the audio recording)

(a) Quarterly Personnel Status Report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA)

Hear and act on a recommendation to authorize submission of the quarterly Personnel Status Report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

John Johnson provided a brief update regarding the quarterly personnel status report, noting the Authority has 5.5 employees and 3 interns.

Motion to approve the quarterly personnel status report for the period April 1-June 30, 2026 made by Gaffney Feskoe, seconded by James Donegan.

Paul Whitescarver noted the Project Manager position that was previously approved if needs arise with potential for a PIDP grant for the Groton Marine Terminal and potential Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DEEP for Pier 7.

So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(b) Staffing Update

Michael O'Connor noted that there would be an anticipated update to staffing if a MOU was entered into for rehabilitation of Pier 7. He noted that the Authority would then look at hiring a Project Manager to determine funding sources, oversee procurement, project work, budget and schedule, as well as provide support for any PIDP grants.

Michael O'Connor introduced the Authority's three summer interns: Luke Templeton from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Caleb Ortiz Diaz from Connecticut College who is transferring to Brown University in the fall, and Conor Byrne who is in a master's program at Fairfield University.

6. **Grant Updates**

(Begins at 12:40 of the audio recording)

(a) Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP)

Michael O'Connor noted that the SHIPP program is going well with the Authority continuing to make reimbursements for grants that have been awarded. He noted that SHIPP 5 awards continue to be highlighted in the news, and that SHIPP Round 6 will open on September 1st using funds available from the Bond Commission. He noted that the Authority will work with the legislature on what happens with regards to funding of SHIPP going forward. He noted an inquiry received from a few state representatives that he will review regarding private entities and dredging.

(b) EPA Clean Ports Program – New London State Pier Shore Power Project

Michael O'Connor noted that progress on the Shore Power Project continues as expected. He noted that work on the cable management system continues with completion of the system expected later this year on the west coast as part of the Build

America, Buy America (BABA) waiver requirements. He also noted the long lead electrical equipment ordered through ABB. He noted the next phase of the project including construction sourcing, and engineering firm Moffatt & Nichol completing the details for construction. He also noted the scheduling of the work to be done on the pier to be coordinated with current operations. There was discussion regarding vessel usage and low and high voltage options for shore power.

(c) PIDP Grant for Groton Marine Terminal

Michael O'Connor noted the application that was submitted in June for a PIDP Grant for Groton Marine Terminal and that a date for decision is currently unknown. He noted several enhancements made to the application based on feedback received from the Maritime Administration (MARAD).

7. **Executive Director Update**

(Begins at 16:55 of the audio recording)

Michael O'Connor noted that updates regarding requests for funding through the two new grant programs, MENTOR-Futures Sponsorship Program and Community Grant Program, will be shared with the Board at upcoming meetings including the next regular meeting in October. He noted the reasons for the special meetings since the last regular meeting in April and provided an update from the Annual Public Hearing in June. He also noted potential topics for the October meeting.

Michael O'Connor provided updates on Authority activities during the quarter including community engagement, attendance at events, port visits, meetings with schools, businesses, industry partners and state and local leaders. He noted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site visits to New Haven and New London for the Clean Ports Program grants. He noted legislation from the last session and his chairing of a new working group that will review policies in the state and make recommendations to increase the use of ports, sea lanes and freight rail to move freight around the state. He noted that the working group consists of the state's Commissioners from the Department of Transportation, Department of Economic and Community Development and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He noted that they will be meeting every two weeks to determine additional participants for the working group, and that they will put a report together for the legislature by the beginning of next year.

Michael O'Connor noted the Authority's participation in the North Atlantic Ports Association meeting that was held in New London in June. He also provided an update on dredging and noted his recent attendance at the New England Regional Dredging Team (NERDT) meeting in Massachusetts. He noted a legislative visit at Pier 7 with legislative interest to improve and retain Pier 7 at Fort Trumbull. He provided an update from the Connecticut Pilot Commission and noted that there is a working group reviewing pilotage rates with updates anticipated for the Board meeting in October. He noted discussions regarding the Blue Economy, as well as discussions with the Connecticut Transportation Institute. He noted the projects that the summer interns are working on including gathering data on how other states handle abandoned boats, maritime economic data and maritime prosperity zones. He provided updates regarding current and potential future activities at State Pier. He noted an upcoming focus on dredging, SHIPP, and investment in the maritime economy. There was discussion regarding Port of Davisville, State Pier, Electric Boat and updates on wind projects including Sunrise and Revolution Wind.

Paul Whitescarver asked about the status of a MOU with CT-DEEP and the longevity of Pier 7 if nothing is done. Michael O'Connor noted that the state funded an evaluation of Pier 7 which was completed by GZA GeoEnvironmental last year. He noted that their estimate is that if nothing is done to rehabilitate Pier 7 within the next five years, that the plan will not be relevant with continued degradation of the condition of the pier that may result in different needs. He provided further information regarding plans, cost, timing, funding, deed, and use of Pier 7. He also provided an update on the status of communications with CT-DEEP regarding the proposed MOU. There was additional discussion regarding uses for Pier 7. John Johnson asked if the MOU

is currently in place with CT-DEEP and Michael O'Connor confirmed that it is not. Paul Whitescarver asked if there is a way to push forward the MOU to allow the Authority to pursue congressionally directed funding. Graham Stevens from CT-DEEP noted that he is reaching out to Mike Lambert for a status update on the MOU and will report back to Michael O'Connor. He provided further information regarding CT-DEEP's ownership of Pier 7 and noted that it had been a federal facility that was transferred to them through the National Park Service with deed restrictions. He further noted the understanding to ensure that the asset remains viable. Michael O'Connor noted the first step of signing the MOU and second step of submission to the Department of the Interior for review.

8. **Committee Assignments**

(Begins at 46:10 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver noted the list of current committee assignments that were provided to the Board. He noted that if any Board members would like to be added to or change their committee assignment, that they notify him, Michael O'Connor and Jill Dowling-Moreno.

9. **Adjournment**

(Begins at 46:34 of the audio recording)

Motion to adjourn made by Grant Westerson, seconded by James Donegan. Meeting adjourned at 12:46pm. Paul Whitescarver noted that the next regular Board meeting is in October.