

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission
May 19, 2026**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on April 21, 2026.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Andre Stuckey read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement into the record.

Andre Stuckey Read Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Charles Wowkanec (absent).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director, (present); Shahima Hudson, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Timothy Ferrie President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association (present); Captain Adam Richardson, President, Interport Pilots Association (present); Captain Russel Henschman, President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Azeem Chaudry, Special Counsel, Authority's Unit (via ZOOM), Captain Jonathan Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Christopher Maglin, Director of Operations, Sandy Hook Pilots Association (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Kirk Pinto (via ZOOM), Captain William O' Neill (via ZOOM), Captain Joseph Paulis (via

ZOOM), Captain Thomas Ferrie (via ZOOM), Apprentice Robert Oldmixon (present), Captain William Baeszler (via ZOOM), Captain Michael Chambers (via ZOOM), Captain Zachery Dietrich (via ZOOM).

Approval of the April 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to approve the April 21, 2026, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #26-11 to Approve the May 2026 Treasures Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to Approve the May 2026 Treasures Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a copy of advisory #26-003. The advisory touches on all the points that the Commission advised Ms. Stuckey to address. She was able to take it one step further by including a contact number from the 24/7 Coast Guard Command Center. Ms. Stuckey was advised that there will be immediate reaction if the number is called. Ms. Stuckey reported that the advisory was posted on the Commissions website. It was sent to all New Jersey Pilots and Apprentices, the United States Coast Guard, the New York Pilot President, the chair of Harbor Ops, and the New York Commission.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she and Commissioner Kils attended the Area Maritime Security Committees annual meeting. The main topic of the meeting was OpSail 250. There was a lot of good information shared. Ms. Stuckey announced that they are replacing Homeport with the Department of Homeland Security's Information Network. They are currently working on setting up their portion of the site. Ms. Stuckey was able to pre-register for the site, noting that the registration process was simple. She advised any Commissioner interested in registering for the site to let her know and she will send them the information.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission two items regarding the Gateway Tunnel project. The first is the award for the contract for Phase 1C, which involves boaring the section of the tunnel tubes under the Hudson River and installing the tunnel liner on the floor. The second item is the Boating Safety Alert, which establishes a temporary safety zone around the construction activities in the Hudson River.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission a copy of the Coast Guard's Boater Safety Alert regarding the temporary safety zones. The zones are in effect from May 1, 2026, until January 20, 2029. Ms. Stuckey requested that if the construction presents any issues for the pilots, they should send her an email. If necessary, she will arrange a meeting with the Gateway Development Corporation to discuss the concerns.

Ms. Stuckey announced that the 2025 annual report has been printed and distributed. The report has received positive feedback. Ms. Stuckey suggested that if any Commissioner would like to send a copy of the report to anyone, they should send her an email with their name and address, and it will be sent out via mail (USPS).

Ms. Stuckey announced that she sent the Commission two items regarding the REC. The first item is the letter the Commission directed her to send to them regarding the closure and how it negatively affects the pilots and the Apprentice Training Programs. The second item is an article stating that although the REC is open, there is a 12-month backlog.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she reached out to Ken Skutches to discuss the issue and request that they prioritize those that had active and approved applications before the closure. Ken Skutches stated that was his plan; however, there is a very large backlog.

Ms. Stuckey requested that the Pilots keep her updated on the status of their Apprentices waiting to be tested. She will stay on top of it and contact Ken Skutches as often as she needs to.

Ms. Stuckey announced that she attended the May 13th Port Planning Committee meeting. She provided the Commission with a copy of the most recent plans, which included details regarding the scheduled shutdown of commercial traffic for OpSail 250. All commercial traffic will be suspended beginning the evening of July 3rd until the conclusion of the parade on July 4th, which is approximately 2:00 p.m. Additionally, a pre-parade event is scheduled for July 3rd on the East River. The provided plans also include a schematic on where all the vessels will be berthed.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the final meeting is scheduled for June 10th at Fordham University, which she intends to attend in person.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a copy of the results for the Maritime Association's Annual Elections. She notes that former New Jersey Commissioner Dennis Lombardi withdrew his name from the ballot. He is

semi-retired and believes that someone else would be better suited to hold the position. The applicant that the Commission supported, John Nardi, won his seat on the board.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission a copy of the most recent Pilot Ladder Deficiency report. She indicated if there are any questions on the report or the process, Mr. Christopher Maglin Director of Operations, Sandy Hook Pilots Association is available to answer them.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission a copy of the notice from the US Merchant Marine Academy Central New Jersey Chapter for their annual golf outing. Ms. Stuckey stated that the Commission supports the outing every year. and asked the Commission if they wanted to continue to support the event. The Commissioners agreed to support the event.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended career fairs at Elizabeth High School and Eastside High School in Newark. She is scheduled to attend an upcoming career fair at Cliffside Park High School, at the request of Commissioner Dana Martinotti. Ms. Stuckey expressed appreciation to Commissioner Martinotti for the invitation.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she has been working with the Virginia Maitland Sachs Foundation regarding their Deckhand Program. She appreciates all the entities that are trying to help address the manpower shortage in the Port. She believes that some of the current expectations are unrealistic. Ms. Stuckey stated that she intends to focus her efforts more on high school students in their junior and senior years. Ms. Stuckey believes that these years are critical for career development, and she intends to provide guidance to steer the students toward the Maritime Academies.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she received a summons for jury duty on June 16, 2026. She wrote to the courts to notify them that she will not be available to serve, because that is the day of the Commissions June meeting. The courts wrote her back and rescheduled her for June 17th and 18th. She will be able to check into the office and be available if anything needs her attention. Her Administrative Assistant, Shahima Hudson will be in the office as well if anything is needed during that time.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she will be on vacation June 25th, 26th, 29th, and 30th. Although she is on vacation, she will be on call. Her Administrative Assistant, Shahima Hudson, will be in the office and will contact Ms. Stuckey if any urgent matters arise that requires her attention.

Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the current number of applicants that were referred for testing is down to 60, and the results have begun to arrive. Ms. Stuckey is currently reviewing these results and intends to present her recommendations at the Committee's August meeting regarding which applicants should be removed from further consideration. Ms. Stuckey reported that the Committee would like to reduce the current number of applicants to 50.

Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the process is moving a bit slowly. She noted that she received one full application, three requests for applications and one letter of recommendation for an application that has not been received. The submission deadline date is June 12th.

Public Comment

Comments from Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Ferrie congratulated Apprentice Robert Oldmixon on his licensure, noting that he has done an excellent job.

Captain Ferrie expressed his pride in Apprentice Robert Oldmixon and how he is going to be a great partner.

Captain Ferrie congratulated the Oldmixon family; he expressed that he worked with the Oldmixon family his entire career.

Captain Ferrie announced that when he finishes up in October, he will have 46 and a half years piloting.

Captain Ferrie reported that business has improved since his last report in April, and that preparations for OpSail 250 are progressing well, with meetings now resulting in more answers than questions.

Comments from Captain Adam Richardson, President, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Richardson reported that business has improved since April, and everything has been going well.

Captain Richardson congratulated Apprentice Robert Oldmixon on his licensure.

Captain Richardson reported that there have been no foreign tankers coming in the port and the number of tankers has been down.

Comments from Captain Russel Henschman, President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Henschman reported that no contracts have been awarded for Op Sail 250; he hopes to receive them soon so that they can finalize their plans.

Captain Henschman reported that Captain Matthew Keenan has finished all his tug and ship ride requirements, and they are working on getting him started shortly. The REC is open, and he has been in touch with Ken Skutches, trying to get that last piece done, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Captain Henschman congratulated Apprentice Robert Oldmixon on his licensure. He expressed how when Apprentice Oldmixon was his mate on the tug, he had him go through the entire vessel and all the documentations, prepping the tugboat for various Coast Guard inspections. He noted that Apprentice Oldmixon did a phenomenal job and offered his congratulations to him.

Captain Henschman shared that his first job as a Pilot was with Apprentice Oldmixon's father.

Captain Henschman expressed that Harbor Pilots Association is glad to see him piloting and noted that Sandy Hook has a good partner.

Comments from Captain Jonathan Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Miller congratulated Apprentice Robert Oldmixon and his family on his licensure.

Captain Miller provided an update regarding the OpSail 250 contract. He advised the Coast Guard 15 months ago that the contract should be split among all Docking Pilot Associations.

Captain Miller reported that the dredging and the permit process is moving along. There is a drill boat in the Newark Bay. The pilots are working around the drill

boat. They are very good with communicating with the pilots.

Captain Miller reported that there was an incident with two people on jet skis on the Con Hook Range last week that lost control in front of a barge. The barge was forced to perform an evasive maneuver. A person fell into the water during the subsequent rescue; however no injuries were reported. The NYPD and Moran boats assisted at the scene.

Captain Miller reported that he will provide an incident report regarding this matter to the Commission.

Captain Miller reported that he will keep the Commission updated regarding Apprentices soon.

Ms. Stuckey requested that the Presidents inform her if any pilots or apprentices are waiting to test, to send their names and she will contact Ken Skutches to request that he prioritizes them.

Ms. Stuckey announced that she will send another request to the pilots and apprentices to notify the Commission of near miss incident reports with recreational vessels.

Captain William O'Neil reported that he was there when the incident occurred. He stated that he will provide an incident report to the Commission.

Resolution #26-12 to approve the Operating
Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to approve the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the budget that the Commission is voting on is the one that was emailed with

their meeting materials. The proposed budget is the same, however the year-to-date numbers were updated.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #26-13 to approve the Six-Month
Upgrade of Captain Kyle Sammis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to approve the Six-Month Upgrade of Captain Kyle Sammis.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #26-14 to approve the Issuance of a
Deputy Maritime Pilot License to Apprentice,
Robert L. Oldmixon.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to approve the Issuance of a Deputy Maritime Pilot License to Apprentice, Robert L. Oldmixon.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Timothee Dacey congratulated Captain Oldmixon and administered the oath to him.

Christopher Maglin Director of Operations, Sandy Hook Pilots Association, congratulated Apprentice Robert Oldmixon on his upgrade.

He expressed his pleasure in watching Apprentice Robert Oldmixon's development over the past four years and wished him the very best in his future career.

Ms. Stuckey expressed her pride at seeing him grow from an applicant to today. She believes he is going to be a top tier pilot.

Captain Robert Oldmixon (retired) expressed how proud he is to see his son's accomplishments.

Captain John Oldmixon (retired) stated how proud he is of his nephew.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; Seconded by Commissioner Kils; that the Commission enter Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stuckey read the following statement into the record:

Whereas, the open public meetings Act provides that a public body such as the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission may meet in closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters, whereas the Commission desires to meet in closed session to discuss such matters, now, therefore be it resolved that the Commission shall at this time, meet in closed session to discuss such matters.

Whereas, the substance of the closed session will be disclosed publicly only if it would not constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:29 am.

The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Public Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Kils; that the Commission return to Public Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:39 am.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.