

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission**

**January 18, 2022**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 Via-Zoom.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Brian McEwing (absent); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (present); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (present)

Also included in the call were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director; Al Hawkins, Board Administrator; Captain Mark Wanderer, Vice-President Sandy Hook Pilots; Captain Kirk Pinto, President Harbor Pilots; Captain Adam Richardson, Vice-President Interport Pilots; Jamera Sirmans, Authorities Unit, Brian Ashnault Esq., DAG.

Election of Officers

Ms. Stuckey read the names of the 2021 officers; Timothy Dacey, President; Jacob Shisha, Vice President; Bjoern Kils, Treasurer; Dennis Lombardi Secretary. She also read the following list with proposed officers for 2022; Timothy Dacey, President; Jacob Shisha, Vice President; Bjoern Kils, Treasurer; Charles Wowkanech, Secretary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Kils to approve the officers as read into the record.

All voted in favor.

### Committee Appointments

Commissioner Dacey made the attached Committee Appointments.

### Approval of the December 21, 2021 regular meeting minutes

An amendment was made to the December, 2021 meeting minutes to replace resolution 21-39 that was submitted with the minutes to the one that was voted on at the February, 2022 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve the amended December, 2021 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

### Resolution #22-01 to approve the January, 2022 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to pass Resolution #22-01 to approve the January, 2022 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

### Executive Director's Report

Ms. Stuckey welcomed Captain Kirk Pinto, he is the new President of Harbor Pilots Association.

Ms. Stuckey also informed the Commission that Mr. Steven Lyman, is the new Executive Director for the Maritime Association. She provided the Commission with a copy of his bio with their meeting materials.

- A. Pilot Log - As in the past, the log will be updated each month when the pilots submit their annual report forms. The log allows the Commission to keep track of each pilot's annual numbers as well as the numbers for each Association.

- B. 2022 Meeting Dates - A copy of the final 2022 meeting date schedule was sent to the Commission. The schedule was sent to the Secretary of State, the Trenton Times and the Star Ledger for publication.
- C. 2021 Annual Report - Ms. Stuckey is beginning to work on the 2021 annual report. The initial thought was to build the report around how the port community is recovering from COVID, however it seems that the new wave of Omicron may set the Commission back. As the information starts to get collected, Ms. Stuckey will attempt to come up with another theme. The highlight of this year's report will be centered on the Maritime Community and how the rest of the world slowed down, the Maritime Industry did not have that luxury. Also, the increase in container volume and how well our ports handled the increase while other ports had issues.
- D. Return to Office Update - Previously Ms. Stuckey and Mr. Hawkins were back in the office full-time. Since the onset of the Omicron variant of COVID the state has issued guidance authorizing all authorities to go back to the phase 2 hybrid schedule until January 31<sup>st</sup>. Phase 2 for the Commission's office is that the staff will work in the office on full days Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will work from home on Tuesday and Thursday.
- E. Harbor Ops Meeting - The first Harbor Ops meeting for the New Year will be tomorrow, January 19<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Stuckey plans to attend the meeting virtually and will report back to the Commission at its next meeting.
- F. Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Process - The Commission have been sent with their meeting materials a copy of the ad that was published in the Professional Mariner and Workboat Magazines. The publications will hit the news stand February 1<sup>st</sup>. The New York Commission will also publish the ad on the G-Caption website. As in the past, the deadline date for accepting applications will be April 15, 2022. Once Sandy Hook completes their reorganization meeting, a chair will be selected for the Committee and Ms. Stuckey anticipates that the meetings will begin soon after that to discuss the process, set meeting dates to review applications and set interview dates.

G. Articles of Interest - Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission a copy of an article along with an open letter to the IMO regarding guidance of pilot transfer arrangements. The letter was submitted by the International Chamber of Shipping in partnership with the International Maritime Pilots Association. It was very interesting that they noted that despite the dangers that come with boarding a vessel via the pilot ladder that it is still the safest way to board. The letter addresses the safe rigging of the ladders, the responsibilities of management as well as the onboard responsibilities of the crew. The most important aspect of the latter is that they address the vessels with the trapdoor combinations and how they should be connected. When the Commission started the Safety Committee meetings regarding pilot safety when boarding vessels, the Committee stated that the only way change would come is if the international maritime community got involved and Ms. Stuckey is very pleased to see that they have stepped up.

There are other articles of interest that Ms. Stuckey encouraged the Commission to read at their leisure.

#### Public Comment (s)

Comments from Captain Mark Wanderer, Vice-President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Wanderer reported that by the end of business tomorrow Sandy Hook pilots should have all positions on the Executive Committee filled.

Captain Wanderer reported that Sandy Hook's pilot operations were suspended for 18 hours due to the bad weather. They worked closely with the Coast Guard and VTS to handle the closing and reopening and everything with smoothly.

Captain Wanderer reported that Sandy Hook is planning to recommence pilot continuing education at MITAGS and that should begin sometime in March, 2022.

Captain Wanderer reported that Sandy Hook has received word that CMAGM is planning to bring 15,000 TEU power vessels to the port sometime this year. Those vessels are not allowed to bunker in the United States. The pilots are not concerned with those vessels coming to the port.

Captain Flannery reported that nothing has been talked about since the announcement of the 15,000 TEU vessels coming to port. He advised that if he recalls there was no problem putting a vessel of that size anywhere in the port.

Captain Wanderer reported that Sandy Hook is at the conclusion of the new pilot boat New York and they plan to have the boat on station sometime next week.

Comments from Captain Flannery, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Flannery reported that Metro Pilots will be taking another apprentice off of the Apprentice Selection List within the next month.

Captain Flannery reported that Metro Pilots will be writing a letter to the Deep Draft Committee referring to the danger of docking ships in bad weather. He advised that Metro will only dock ships when there is bad weather if they put down the outside gangways, seaside gangway or the seaside hatch because it is much safer for the pilots.

Captain Flannery reported that the Oil Round Table discussions will be taking place in the next couple of weeks and he advised that he will keep Ms. Stuckey updated as the plans get finalized.

Captain Flannery reported that Metro Pilots had two pilots out with COVID including himself. He advised that he is healthy and back working and hopefully next week the other pilot will return.

Comments from Captain Pinto, President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Pinto reported that Harbor Pilots has one pilot out with COVID and advised that he is starting to feel better.

Captain Pinto reported that Harbor Pilots Elections takes place every two years and that is based on a majority vote system. Also, the other pilots in the association nominate the candidates.

Ms. Stuckey updated Commissioner Wowkanech on the new Maritime apprentice age limits. She advised that the new age limits are from ages 21-30.

Comments from Captain Richardson, Vice-President, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Richardson reported that Interport Pilots only had one dispatcher who contracted COVID and there was no contact with any of the pilots.

Captain Richardson reported that the ships coming into the port with COVID is becoming more frequent and this is an ongoing issue with boarding ships with unknown cases of COVID. He advised Interport Pilots are to keep a great distance from all ship personnel and practice as much safe piloting as possible.

Captain Richardson thanked Mr. Ed Kelly and the Maritime Association for helping Interport get an AIS station set up at their pilot house in order to get better AIS marine traffic coverage.

Captain Richardson advised that Captain Jonas is still working in the sound and he is still the active President for Interport Pilots.

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Occurrence Investigation Committee:

- I. Zim Tarragona - Based on the investigators report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Kils to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.

#### Resolution #22-02 to Approve the Issuance of a New Jersey State Docking Pilot License to Captain Jesse Malmgren

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and Seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech to Pass Resolution #22-02 to Approve the Issuance of a New Jersey State Docking Pilot License to Captain Jesse Malgren.

All voted in favor.

Apprentice Jesse Malmgren was sworn in by Commissioner Dacey.

Ms. Stuckey advised Apprentice Malmgren that there will be a date scheduled for him to come to the Commission's office to receive his New Jersey State credentials.

#### Executive Session

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 legal and personnel matters, and

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 the substance of the closed session would be disclosed publicly only if it would not warrant an invasion of privacy or constitute a breach of the attorney client privilege.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Shisha that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:27 AM.

#### Return to Public Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Kils that the Commission return to Public Session. All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 12:01 PM

#### Resolution #22-03 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Mark Wanderer to a pilot of the Second Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #22-03 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Mark Wanderer to a pilot of the Second Grade. All voted in favor.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Kils that the meeting be adjourned.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.