

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission
November 18,2025**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on November 18,2025.

Audit Committee Meeting

The Audit Committee met with the firm of Yusufali & Associates, LLC To go over the findings of the FY25 Audit. The auditor reported that he found the Commissions financial records to be in good shape and found no issues.

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

Commissioner Dacey announced that Commissioner Roberts had a medical emergency, and he will not be present at the meeting.

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 (ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (absent); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (via ZOOM).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director, (present); Shahima Hudson, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Adam Richardson President, Interport Pilots Association (present); Captain Jonathon Miller, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Mark Wanderer, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Russel Henchman President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM),Dorian Smith, Esq Associate Counsel (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Peter Rooss (via ZOOM), Captain Frank Reinbold (via ZOOM), Captain Sean Meade (via ZOOM), Captain Fred Dashkoff (via ZOOM), Captain Luke Germanakos (via ZOOM).

Approval of October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve the October 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-27 to Approve the November 2025 Treasurers Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve the November 2025 Treasurers Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey announced that Captain Ferrie could not attend the meeting and extended his apologies.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she spent a couple days at the Sandy Hook Pilots Association to work with the Maritime Pilot Exam Working Group. During the meeting Ms. Stuckey and the Maritime Working Group went over questions, and highlighted the questions the Apprentices usually have trouble with they also discussed the essay scenarios and the need to draw charts, and additional topics that should be covered. They did not come up with any suggestions on how to improve the current exam process, there were areas that they thought could be covered in more detail like the Commissions new section in the regulations on the pilots right to work in a safe environment.

Ms. Stuckey reported that they also talked about the grading criteria. During the meeting she learned that the New York ED does not administer and grade the test, the Commissioners would take turns each time a pilot is tested. The Maritime Pilot Group thought it would be a great idea to put the process in writing so that it will be universal and each new person looking at the test would have a guideline to work with. The guidelines are being drafted by Commander Olthuis and will be circulated to the New Jersey and New York Commissions for their input. It was also discussed whether a

pilot should be a part of the process, and the group agreed that the test should remain independent from the Associations.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Independent Contractors agreements that were approved during the October 2025 meeting have now been circulated and executed. The new terms took effect on November 1st and will remain in place until November 1st, 2030.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she met with the Coast Guard regarding New Jersey licensed Pilots and Apprentices and their ability to have access to the port and other necessary areas during emergencies. Ms. Stuckey explained to them that the Commission issues each Pilot and Apprentice a letter when they receive their credentials designating them as essential personnel and informed them that the state issued ID cards state that they are valid for emergency service.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Captain of the Port penned a letter stating that they consider pilots essential personnel, and they are required for emergency movements of the vessels. The letter was sent to the president of each association with the request to circulate it among their groups. Ms. Stuckey sent a copy of the letter to the Commissioners with the meeting materials.

Ms. Stuckey reported that after receiving comments regarding the Coast Guards proposal to modernize the buoys in the northeast, the Coast Guard suspended the proposal pending further research. Ms. Stuckey had a conversation with Captain McQuate and recommended that they include the pilots on the panel when the topic is researched since they are the ones that actively pilot in the port and understand the importance of the different aids. Ms. Stuckey sent copies of the bulletin suspending the proposal to the Commissioners.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Commissioner Kils developed a carabiner holder that could clip to the pilot's safety vest to be used in case of emergency. The holder has been sent to a distributor called LBT to develop a prototype that could be mass produced. They have submitted 2 different designs, and both have been rejected.

Ms. Stuckey reported that once they receive a product, that is practical as well as useful they will bring it before both Commissions for a stamp of approval.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she traveled to Sandy Hook to tour the Romer. Sandy Hook did an amazing job retrofitting the vessel. She is equipped with luxury reclining seats and can bunk up to 6 people. She does not have a kitchenette, however there is an area

with a sink and a refrigerator. She can be used as a temporary station boat if the need arises.

Ms. Stuckey announced that Sandy Hook is proposing a Pension Surcharge meeting on December 11th at 1pm. The meeting will be hybrid for those that cannot attend in person. Commissioner Roberts is the Commissions representative on the Pension Surcharge Committee. If Commissioner Roberts has not recovered in time for the meeting, Ms. Stuckey will reach out to the Commissioners for a replacement.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Sandy Hook Pilots Association plans to have a christening ceremony to officially introduce the Romer to the port. Ms. Stuckey will make sure to circulate the date and time as soon as she receives it to give to the Commissioners that are interested in attending time to plan.

Ms. Stuckey announced that there will be a Harbor Inspection Tour in 2026.

Ms. Stuckey announced that the Coast Guard's Search and Rescue Council is hosting a meeting on November 20th at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York. During the meeting the Coast Guards Search and Rescue Council will go over protocol, statistics, demonstrations and policy updates. Ms. Stuckey plans to attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Ms. Stuckey announced if anyone is interested in participating in person or via Microsoft Teams, they can email her, and she will send the information on how to participate.

Ms. Stuckey reported that in September the state of New Jersey discontinued the corporate accounts with Bank of America and has now contracted with USBank. During the process the Commissions accounts with Bank of America were closed. Ms. Stuckey was notified that the Commission must set up their own accounts.

Ms. Stuckey has been utilizing her personal funds to keep the Commission running. She has finally been able to get the accounts set up with US Bank.

Ms. Stuckey announced that Bethanne Rooney will be sworn in as a Commissioner with the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots at their meeting.

Ms. Stuckey was invited to attend the ceremony and sent well wishes from New Jersey by Captain Timothy Ferrie.

Ms. Stuckey reported last month that DOT, the Maritime Association and Rutgers University were holding a Regional Maritime Symposium. Ms. Stuckey could not attend the meeting, however Captain Daniel Zorovich attended and reported back. Captain Daniel Zorovich found the meeting to be informative. During the meeting they covered the process of obtaining government contracts and grants. Brian Wilton gave a presentation on the inner workings of state government. They intend to have these types of meetings quarterly. Ms. Stuckey will decide on whether to attend the next one based on the agenda items.

Ms. Stuckey announced that she will be taking vacation the week of November 24th she will check emails daily and be available via phone if needed.

Public Comment

Comments from Captain Mark Wanderer, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Wanderer reported that shipping has slowed down just a little from the record high numbers they had back in September and October 2025. He reports that everything seems to be returning to it's normal volume for this time of year however.

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

Captain Miller reported that the contracts for Opsail 250 have not been awarded.

Captain Miller reported that the tug companies are unaware of how operations will proceed making it impossible to properly prepare.

Captain Miller reported that at the last meeting that he attended there were changes to the Berth Schematic, but he remains optimistic and said they have a lot of Berths they must figure out.

Captain Miller reported that he has worked recently with the EDC and Manhattan Cruise Terminal, on simulation exercises in Shanghai regarding a proposal to change the entire passenger pier layout in Manhattan.

Captain Miller reported that there is a proposal going out for deauthorization of the federal channel, they want to extend

those slips out into the channel. The Pilots don't think it would affect shipping in any negative way.

Captain Miller reported that he is still the president of Metro pilots, and they have two new Vice Presidents, Captain Esposito and Captain Wood.

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

Captain Henschman reported that Captain Mark Hershey is still out, and he is recovering from his second operation. He's doing well and should be back in a few weeks.

Captain Henschman reported that Captain Matthew Keenan cracked his heel, and he will need another two or three more weeks to recover before returning to work on the tugboats.

Captain Henschman reported that recently they received a new 80-ton tugboat called the Gerald McAllister from Washburn which is in great condition for the fleet.

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

Captain Richardson reported that they just started cycling some pilots through new and recurrent training at USMRC in Newport, and everything is going well.

Resolution #25-34 To Set the Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to set the meeting dates for calendar year 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-26 To Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit

Commissioner Dacey reported that the Committee met prior to the meeting to review the findings with the auditor. The auditor reported that the Commissions books were in good shape, and he found no issues in their financial records.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to approve the FY 2025 audit.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; Seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; 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 10:54 am.

Adjournment

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.