

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

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

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:10am

Open Public Meeting Statement

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

Roll Call

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

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director, (present); Dorian Smith, Esq., Senior Counsel, Authorities Unit (present); Captain Jon Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Alex Woodworth, President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association (present); Captain Adam Richardson, President, Interport Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Christopher Maglin, Director of Operations, Sandy Hook Pilots Association (present); Mr. Kyle Weist, Executive Director, Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots and Apprentices were in attendance for their annual reviews, licenses and appointments: Captain Elizabeth Miller (via ZOOM); Captain Ronald Perry (via ZOOM); Captain Charles Fannon (via ZOOM); Captain Robert Flannery (via ZOOM); Captain Zachery Dietrich & Family (present); Captain Ryan Dashkoff & Family (present).

Commissioner Dacey welcomed the families of Captain Zachary Dietrich and Captain Ryan Dashkoff.

Introduction of Kyle Weist, Executive Director, Board of
Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York

Ms. Stuckey welcomed Mr. Weist to the meeting and asked him to address the Commission.

Mr. Weist gave the Commissioners a summary of his background. He expressed his gratitude at being able to work with Ms. Stuckey and his desire to continue a good collaborative working relationship between the two Commissions.

Commissioner Dacey thanked Mr. Weist for attending the meeting and pointed out the importance of the two states continuing to work together, especially on issues that affect both states. The coordination will promote a safe environment for the regulated community.

Approval of the January 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve the January 21, 2024, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-02 to Approve the February 2025, Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #25-02 to approve the February 2025 Treasurers Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with copies of the Fast Facts for the Governor's Budget Book along with copies of updated budget sheets. The current sheets show that the Commission ended FY24 with a surplus of \$44,546.23. The Commission is on track to end FY25 with a surplus of at least \$75,000. Based on these figures, Ms. Stuckey does not believe it will be necessary to adjust the pilotage fee on July 1, 2025.

Ms. Stuckey attended the January 30, 2025, bulk terminal/Pilot roundtable meeting. She believed that the meeting was extremely productive. She highlighted two issues that were discussed at the meeting. The first discussion revolved around the Pilots requesting better communication from the agents regarding vessels voyage plans. It was determined that the agents would email a designated person from each of the

Pilot Associations with information on each voyage, including any changes to the plan.

The second issue is the unsafe gangway arrangements at some of the terminals. This issue prompted a lot of discussion. It was also pointed out that the terminals with the worse arrangements do not attend the meetings and therefore are not part of the conversation. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the joint Commissions meet with the Coast Guard to discuss the issue to come up with a plan. After several conversations, it was agreed that Ms. Stuckey would set up the meeting.

Ms. Stuckey, Mr. Weist, Captain John DeCruz (Chair of Harbor Ops), Captain Andrechik, Commander McQuate and the loss prevention team met on February 5, 2025. They discussed the issue and came up with the following plan. The joint Commissions would send a letter to the terminals and agents expressing their concern over the unsafe gangways and put them on notice that State licensed pilots have been advised to refuse to board any vessel that they deem unsafe. If this occurs, the Commissions will immediately report the incident to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard would issue the terminal a form B which is similar to a Captain of the Port Order.

They have also urged the Commissions to discourage the Pilots from putting any parameters regarding safe gangways in writing to avoid any liability issues.

Captain Miller stated that communication with the agents regarding the vessel voyage plans has worked out well.

Ms. Stuckey reported that discussions have already begun regarding the next Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Process. The ad will be placed for potential applicants in December 2025 with a deadline date of April 15, 2026. The interview dates will be moved from the beginning of September to avoid the holiday and beginning of the school year to the end of September/beginning of October. The change in the interview dates will also allow both states to approve the list on the same date.

Ms. Stuckey attended the State of the Port Address hosted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The following statistics were announced at the meeting: 8.7 million TEU;s moved through the port; 845,532 passengers moved through the cruise terminals; 2.68 million metric tons of cargo moved through the port and 407,657 autos moved through the port. Cargo dropped 12% however, this is not an area of concern because the movement of scrap metal is being phased out and less rock salt came into the port because of a mild winter in 2023. The meeting was overshadowed by the new Administrations freeze

on government grants. The freeze would put a hold onto many of the Port Authority's projects. The board of the Council on Port Performance also celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

Ms. Stuckey and Mr. Weist attended a meeting with Stephen Lyman, the Executive Director of the Maritime Association of New York and New Jersey and Kingsborough Community College. They developed a deckhand training program and are looking for avenues for referrals after the training program is completed. It was explained to them that the Commissions do not offer employment opportunities, but both are regulating agencies. Ms. Stuckey offered them the opportunity to speak with Pilots to understand how pilotage works in the states of New Jersey and New York.

Ms. Stuckey Provided the Commission with an announcement from the Gateway Development Commission stating that the contract for the tunnel project has been awarded. During the last meeting, the Commission expressed concern about whether the funding for the project is in danger of being revoked. So far there is no movement to do so. Ms. Stuckey will continue to work with the Gateway Development Commission and Amtrak on the project and will provide whatever assistance the Commission and the Pilots have to offer.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York proposed rules regarding intermediate rates for the Sandy Hook Pilots Association. The Commissioners were given a copy of the proposal. New Jersey does not have to propose the rules as they are a part of the New York Navigation Law. Once the rules are approved, New Jersey would ratify them. Ms. Stuckey and Mr. Weist will stay on top of this issue to ensure both Commissions approve them at the same time.

Ms. Stuckey will attend the virtual meeting of the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's Freight Initiative Committee this afternoon. She will report anything of note to the Commission.

Ms. Stuckey has been asked to participate in the long-range transportation plan freight stakeholder focus group. The first meeting was on February 5, 2025. The meeting revolved mostly around issues faced by truckers in the port. Ms. Stuckey will continue to participate in the meetings and provide insight when appropriate.

Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that the office has not received any mail since relocating. She learned that the mail is being returned to the sender because the Commission is not listed as a tenant in Gateway Center. She met with the manager from the Gateway development Center and New Jersey Transit to rectify the situation. If the situation does not get ironed out, she will speak with the Commission about other options in getting their mail.

Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission of the following upcoming events: Seafarers International House, Setting the Course Reception on April 24, 2025; The Seamen's Church Institutes Annual Silver Bell Awards Dinner on June 12, 2025, and the Maritime Associations annual Hall of Fame Awards dinner on May 21, 2025. She advised any of the Commissioners wishing to attend any of these events to email her. She also advised the Commissioners that there is still time to register for the Marine Society's annual dinner on March 27, 2025. Currently, she, Commissioner Dacey and Commissioner Kils are scheduled to attend.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commissioners articles of interest that she encouraged them to read at their leisure. She highlighted the one about the new administration looking to make cuts at NOAA and how concerning it is. She is hopeful that the Administration will understand how important NOAA is to commercial shipping nationally. She will continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Commission as necessary.

Ms. Stuckey stated that there are no current vacation plans, however she plans to take a half day on Friday to take care of personal business. She will be available to answer calls and email during that time.

Committee Reports

A. Occurrence Investigation Committee:

1. Ever focus - January 4, 2025. Captain Fred Dashkoff was the Pilot of record for this incident. Since he was present at the meeting, Ms. Stuckey asked that he give the report on this incident. Based on the report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the file be closed, and no fault found on the part of the Pilot. It was also

recommended that copies of the report be sent to the vessel agent, owner and Coast Guard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to accept the recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. M.V America - January 9, 2025. Based on the investigation report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the file be closed, and no fault found on the part of the Pilots. It was also recommended that copies of the report be sent to the vessel agent, owner and Coast Guard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to accept the recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Zim Asia - January 23, 2025. Based on the investigation report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the file be closed, and no fault found on the part of the Pilots. It was also recommended that copies of the report be sent to the vessel agent, owner and Coast Guard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts to accept the recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Ferrie stated how honored he was to be able to attend the meeting in person. He congratulated Captain Dietrich on becoming a Pilot and expressed how proud he is of him. He also expressed his pleasure at seeing Captain Fred Dashkoffs' son Ryan appointed into the Maritime Pilot Apprentice training program.

Captain Ferrie reported that January was a flat month for Sandy Hook. He stated that everything is going well with the business.

Captain Ferrie attended the OpSail 2026 planning meeting and believes that things are shaping up very well. The Sandy Hook Pilots Association rearranged their schedules to accommodate the event. No Pilot will be on vacation the week of the event and they will limit their January business meetings to one week in 2026. They notified the Navy that there will be more than 26 Pilots available for the event.

Ms. Stuckey inquired whether Captain Ferrie could arrange for herself and the Commissioners to participate in the event. He stated that there will be more than enough vessels and they are more than welcome to participate.

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

Captain Miller congratulated the new Pilot and Apprentice.

Captain Miller reported that the Deep draft Committee established a restriction on the Claremont Channel because of shoaling. The restrictions have a significant industry impact; however safety has to come first. No vessel over 18 feet can go into the channel.

Commissioner Dacey inquired as to who is responsible for the dredging. Captain Miller informed the Commission that it is a private terminal, however they have requested Federal aid.

Captain Miller reported that the dredging report for the AK 50 has been published, and that area is less restrictive. The Pilots can get information faster than they have in the past because of technology and advancements in the Army Core.

Captain Miller reported that there is chatter regarding the low Sulphur fuel. The fuel is causing issues with ships. To date there haven't been any occurrences, however the Pilots will continue to monitor the issue and will report any significant concerns to Ms. Stuckey.

Captain Miller informed the Commission that Captain Nilsen was called into work and will attend the meeting as soon as he is able to for his annual appearance.

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

Captain Richardson reported that everything is well at Interport Pilots Association. He congratulated Captain Dietrich on receiving his license.

Report from Mr. Charis Maglin, Director of Operations, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Mr. Maglin reported that it has taken a lot of work to get the apprentice training program to where it is now with more work to do. He had reservations about changing the length of the program in the beginning because of the amount of pressure it could potentially put on the current apprentices. He stated his pleasure in the work ethic of the apprentices. They push to make sure they meet their milestones and timelines. The new apprentices that came into the program with no pilotage are working hard and have proven how attainable the shortened program is. He has no reservations and is sure that the program can be completed in four years.

Mr. Maglin reported that Sandy Hook has noticed a bit of an uptick in the number of ladder deficiency reports and are watching closely. They have been able to maintain a good relationship with the Coast Guard and they have been proactive in responding, especially with ships that are still in the port. Sandy Hook's new dispatch program has been helpful in streamlining the distribution of the reports.

Resolution #25-03 to Approve the Issuance of a New Jersey State Deputy Maritime Pilot License to Zachary C. Dietrich

Ms. Stuckey informed the Commissioners that Captain Dietrich was the first Apprentice to test in the Commission's new office space. He tested the week of January 6th while Ms. Stuckey was still putting the office together and tested well. She also reminded the Commission that he is the last Apprentice to go through the old apprentice training program.

Commissioner Dacey pointed out that he was also the last apprentice to be appointed before the pandemic shut all operations down.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve Resolution #25-03 to Approve the Issuance of a New Jersey State Deputy Maritime Pilot License to Zachary C. Dietrich.

The motion passed unanimously.

Captain Dietrich was sworn in by Commissioner Dacey.

Captain Dietrich thanked everyone that helped him along the way to becoming a pilot. Captain Dietrich introduced his family who expressed how proud they were of his accomplishment.

Resolution #25-04 to Approve the Appointment of Maritime Pilot
Apprentice Ryan L. Dashkoff

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Dashkoff interviewed very well and was highly recommended by his current employer.

Captain Dashkoff gave the Commission a summary of his background.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Kils to approve Resolution #25-04 to Approve the Appointment of Maritime Pilot Apprentice Ryan L. Dashkoff.

The motion passed unanimously.

Captain Dashkoff introduced his family and thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

Resolution #25-04 to Approve the Hiring of a
Secretary/Receptionist

Ms. Stuckey thanked Mr. Smith for fast tracking the approval of the new hire at the Governor's office. She reported that the next step is for the application to go to the Civil Service Commission.

Commissioner Dacey pointed out that the Commission is exempt from the rules of the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. Stuckey explained that because the Human Resource functions of the Commission go through the Department of Transportation, they are following their process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve Resolution #25-05 to Approve the Hiring of a Secretary/Receptionist.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stuckey thanked the members of the Commission for the feedback they provided on the applicants.

Executive Session

Commissioner Dacey reported that the Commission will enter Executive Session for the annual review of Pilots, Personnel Discussions and Legal Discussions. Upon its return to Public Session, it is anticipated that the Commission will vote to

approve the upgrade of Captain Robert Flannery to a Pilot of the Third Grade.

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 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; seconded by Commissioner Roberts that the Commission enter Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:58am.

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 11:20am.

Resolution #25-06 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Robert Flannery, III to a Pilot of the Third Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve Resolution #25-06 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Robert Flannery, III to a Pilot to the Third Grade.

The Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts, that the Meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.