

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission
February 17, 2026**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on February 17, 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 (via ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (absent).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director, (present); Shahima Hudson, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Adam Richardson President, Interport Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Jonathon Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Russel Henschman President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Samuel Kovach-Orr Senior Counsel, Authority's Unit (via ZOOM), Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association (present).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Elizabeth Miller (via ZOOM),

Ms. Stuckey announced that Samuel Kovach- Orr will be the Commissions permanent representative from the Authorities Unit.

Ms. Stuckey announced that Shahima Hudson, has officially become an employee of the Commission.

Ms. Stuckey previously reported that the New York Commission was considering a dual pilotage rate system. After several meetings and careful consideration, they have decided to table the proposal. The last rate adjustment will go into effect on January 1, 2027. Ms. Stuckey advised Captain Ferrie to keep the Commission updated as they work on the new rate table.

Ms. Stuckey reported Apprentice Robert Oldmixon is scheduled to take his state exam the week of March 23rd. Assuming he passes, he will appear before the Commission at the May 19, 2026 meeting for his swearing in ceremony and will officially join the rotation board on April 1, 2026.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a memo with their meeting materials regarding a training grant request for a Maritime Pilot Apprentice to attend Maritime Pilots Institute. Every year the Commission includes this training in their budget.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Apprentice Robert Oldmixon will be the next Apprentice to attend the manned-model training and is scheduled to attend September 21st through the 25th. Apprentice Robert Oldmixon will write a report about his experience to present to the Commission.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a copy of the most recent Ladder deficiency report. She asked Mr. Christopher Maglin to give the Commission any updates on the reporting system. Mr. Maglin reported that

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the Port Authority's State of the Port address. She sent copies of the presentation to the Commissioners along with their meeting materials. Ms. Stuckey went over a couple of the items that were discussed, particularly the manpower shortage, and how they are going to offer employees incentives and try to make better use of their working hours. They also stated that they are rebuilding as four of their top five people in managerial positions took a voluntary buy-out.

The Port Authority reported that the container volumes are 3% higher than pre-pandemic levels and lastly, they reported that the dredging funds have been released, and the dredging projects are back on track.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended several briefings with the Coast Guard regarding OpSail 250, they reported that there will be 40 to 50 temporary anchorages from the Verrazano to the George Washington Bridges. The Port will remain open with restrictions between July 3rd and the 5th. Ms. Stuckey also learned that the Jones Beach Air Show will be a part of the festivities on July 4th. The Coast Guard intends to make the rounds and provide the briefings to all the active Committees within the Port. The final briefing will be held at Fordham University on June 10th, all port stake - holders are invited to attend the briefing.

Ms. Stuckey reported that if any of the Commissioners are interested in attending the briefing in person or via Zoom, they should let her know and she will provide them with the link. Ms. Stuckey stated that she will attend in person.

Commissioner Kils pointed out that it is the last day to provide comments to the Coast Guard on the temporary anchorages for OpSail 250.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Andrechik has extended his tenure because he wants to be a part of the festivities. Ms. Stuckey is hoping that he will be around long enough to be able to jumpstart the meeting and get more terminal involvement. She believes an invitation from the Coast Guard will encourage others to attend.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the January 28th Harbor Ops meeting, the meeting primarily focused on OpSail 250.

Ms. Stuckey sent copies of a PowerPoint Presentation, from the City Club of New York. They are seeking to solicit investors to privatize the Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The EDC has also submitted a proposal for the Brooklyn Marine Terminal.

Ms. Stuckey stated that she will monitor the process and see how it plays out. She believes it will be a mistake to privatize the terminal for residential space.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Coast Guard and Harbor Ops announced that there will be monthly meetings for OpSail 250. They want to keep everyone in the port updated as the plans progress.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Gateway Tunnel Project is on hold again. The administration has been advised that they cannot hold back the funds, however they have not been released. The tunnel boring machine arrived, and they were hoping to get at least a mile of the tunnel dug by the summer. Ms. Stuckey stated if it continues its going to push the project back for some months.

Ms. Stuckey announced that Seafarers and International House will hold its annual Setting The Course Reception on April 23rd at the New York Athletic Club.

Captain Ferrie congratulated all apprentices on doing such a great job and they are looking forward to warmer weather soon.

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

Captain Richardson reported that they had a busy February, little to no delays, because of the ice. They are thankful for that and are looking forward to warmer weather as well.

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

Captain Henschman reported that it's been busy as usual.

Captain Henschman reported that Apprentice Matthew Keenan passed all three parts of the North River, and he will be testing his final piece toward the end of March 2026. He still has a handful of rides to complete.

Captain Henschman reported that Apprentice Matthew Keenan is doing a great job and when a spot opens for him, he can start right away.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she received a memo from the Governor's office requesting that the Commission designate an Appointments Representative. Ms. Stuckey will provide the Governor's office Commissioner Dacey's information, and he will serve as the Commissions Appointments Representative.

Resolution #26-04 to approve the appointment of a new Maritime Pilot Apprentice Ryan M. Wood.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to approve the appointment of a new Maritime Pilot Apprentice Ryan M. Wood.

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 10:27 am.

The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Public Session

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

The motion passed unanimously.