

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission  
August 18, 2026.**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on August 18, 2026.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; seconded by Commissioner Dacey that the Commission enter into Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:10 A.M.

**Return to Public Session**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 10:15 A.M.

**Open Public Meeting Statement**

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

## Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (via ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); 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 Timothy Ferrie President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Adam Richardson, President, Interport Pilots Association (present); Captain Russel Henschman, President, Harbor Pilots Association (present), Azeem Chaudry, Special Counsel, Authority's Unit (via ZOOM), Captain Jonathan Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Morgan Rice, DAG (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Kevin Walsh (via ZOOM), Captain Mark Wanderer (via ZOOM), Captain William Speiser (via ZOOM), Captain Ryan Pakalik (via ZOOM), Apprentice Steve Altini (via ZOOM), Captain Matthew Keenan (via ZOOM).

## Approval of the July 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #22-18 to Approve the August 2026  
Treasures Report

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commissions in-person ethics training has been rescheduled to the October 20th, 2026, meeting. She noted that the Commissioners are not required to come into the office. Ms. Flynn will provide the training (via ZOOM), during Executive Session. Ms. Stuckey emphasized that the training is mandatory, and it is important that everyone sign on to that meeting. Additionally, Ms. Stuckey and Ms. Hudson are scheduled to have their in-person training on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Apprentice Benjamin White is scheduled to take his state exam on December 16th. Assuming he passes, he will come before the Commission at their February 2027 meeting for his swearing-in ceremony. He is scheduled to join the rotation board on March 1st, 2027.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the scheduled terminal round table meeting was canceled following changes at the Port Authority. The Chair, Ms. Maggie Bafia resigned. It is for this reason Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Pilots chair the meetings when she contacted the Coast Guard to reinstate them. She expressed concern that the ongoing projects may lose momentum. Although a replacement has been identified, no new meeting has been scheduled; she will keep the Commission informed.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she and Steven Lyman, the Executive Director of the Maritime Association were approached by Captain Anthony Buro. He expressed concern over policing limits in the harbor and requested a meeting to further discussions. The meeting was hosted at the Commissions office and included Ms. Stuckey, Mr. Lyman, Commissioner Kils, Officer Buro, Officer Matier and Officer Reader. They discussed the New Jersey State Police's inability to be able to enforce infractions in certain parts of the port and were looking for support. They stated they have the necessary assets and are willing and able to police the waters in the port of New York and New Jersey.

The group came up with a plan to include the administrations from New York and New Jersey, the Coast Guard, the New York Marine Police, the New Jersey State Police, the Maritime Association, the NJ Commission and the New York Commission. The immediate plan is to get everyone to a meeting to discuss extending the temporary MOU that was established for FIFA. The long-term plan is to get permanent legislation in place to allow the NJ State Police to aid in enforcing the port. Ms. Stuckey is currently collecting information on incidents in the port that involve personal craft vessels and jet skis for the discussions. She made an appeal to the Pilots to share these types of incidents with the Commission as it will aide in getting enforcement on the water.

Ms. Stuckey contacted Mr. Chaudry, and he stated his willingness to participate in the meetings and get the appropriate people from the administration involved. Commissioner Fixmer also stated his willingness to participate in the meetings. After open discussion it was agreed that the meetings are important, and Ms. Stuckey should move forward and keep the Commission informed.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Motor Vehicle abstracts are obtained as part of the annual background checks for Pilots and Apprentices. Because some licenses are issued by states outside the existing MOU agreements, they are not easy to obtain. She recommended requiring individuals whose abstracts cannot be accessed directly to provide them at least two weeks before their annual appearance.

Ms. Stuckey reported that when the annual schedule is sent, pilots from states outside the area will be notified that they must provide their Motor Vehicle abstracts at least two weeks before the meeting date.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Coast Guard's executive team is in place. Captain Doreen McCarthy, Captain of the Port, Captain Stephen Bor, Deputy of the Port, Commander Tim Bonner, Head of Waterways Management, and Commander Urdley Smith, Head of Loss Prevention. They are tentatively scheduled to attend the Commissions September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. If they cannot attend, she will work to have them attend one of the Commission meetings before the end of the year.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she will be on vacation the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> but will remain available via email and telephone as needed. Ms. Hudson will be in the office and can contact her if an emergency arises.

#### Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Committee met on July 31<sup>st</sup> to review applications and test results of the 50 applicants tested, 36 were selected to move forward to interviews, which are scheduled for the weeks of September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will then select the top 15 applicants for second interviews. Ms. Stuckey anticipates providing the Commission with a final report of the top candidates with a resolution at the Commission's November 17 meeting.

### Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Committee completed interviews on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Of the nine applicants that were interviewed, seven were recommended for the Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection list. One applicant later withdrew because the Coast Guard did not approve his logged pilotage trips. A report and resolution regarding the remaining applicants will be presented for a vote at the Commissions September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Public Comment

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

Captain Ferrie reported that business has increased in the port and that dredging is underway at Outerbridge Reach and Ward Point Bend, which is greatly needed.

He applauded efforts to involve local agencies in addressing problems caused by jet skis and small boats interfering with commercial traffic and expressed support for the upcoming roundtable meeting.

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

Captain Richardson reported that the Interport Pilots Associations is having a busy summer and continues to cycle its boats through the yard. This has been one of the most comprehensive yard periods for all of its boats. He also reported that everyone is healthy and working.

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

Captain Miller reported that the Terminal Roundtable should be co-chaired by a Docking Pilot and a Maritime Pilot to improve efficiency and organization. He recommended scheduling bi-annual meetings and keeping participants who need to be briefed in the background so discussions can focus on current issues.

Captain Miller reported that the dredging and AIS transponder projects remain active. He has written a letter regarding the long-delayed AIS transponders and spoke with the Army Corps of Engineers about expanding dredging in the Arthur Kill after its bid came in under budget.

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

Captain Henschman reported that Captain Joe Bosch received official demobilization orders and is expected to complete processing in Norfolk in September. He is anticipated to return home in mid-to-late October, after which he will work with Ms. Stuckey and the Commission on his recency requirements. He added that everyone else continues

Resolution #26-19 to Award the Contract for the  
Fiscal Year 2026 Audit

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to Award the Contract for the Fiscal Year 2026 Audit to the firm of Kayode Agunbiade, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dacey reported that the Commission held a brief Audit Committee meeting to review the proposals of Kayode Agunbiade, LLC and Yusefali & Associates. Both

companies have conducted the Commission's audits over the past 15 years. The Committee chose Kayode Agunbiade, LLC because Yusefali & Associates completed the audit last year and the Commission believes it would be beneficial to have a fresh perspective on the Commission's finances.

Resolution #26-20 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Zachary Dietrich

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Zachary Dietrich.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; Seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; 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 10:47 am.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### Return to Public Session

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:38 am.

#### Adjournment

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am.