

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission
June 17, 2025**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on June 17, 2025

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

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Andre Stuckey read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement into the record at 10:00A.M.

Andre Stuckey Read Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (via ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); 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); Shahima Hudson, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Adam Richardson President, Interport Pilots Association (present); Captain Jon Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Russel Henchmann, President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association (via ZOOM),

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Jon Flanders (via ZOOM), Captain Daniel Zorovich (via ZOOM), Captain Nils Tribulus (via ZOOM), Captain Leonard Evans (via ZOOM), Captain Donald Occhipinti (via ZOOM),

Approval of May 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve the May 15, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-16 to Approve the June, 2025 Treasures Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils, seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve the June 2025 treasurers Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey introduced Shahima Hudson the new temporary employee she provided the Commissioners with copies of Ms. Hudson's resume. Shahima Hudson Began working with the Commission on June 2, 2025. Ms. Stuckey stated that she's been doing well. Ms. Hudson gave the Commission a brief history of her background.

Ms. Stuckey Reported that the process to address unsafe gangways has been working well. She received three pictures from a docking pilot with pictures of problematic gangways from Carteret. The photos were sent to Commander McQuate to contact the terminal.

Ms. Stuckey also reported that Mr. Weist from New York has also been sending photos to the Coast Guard.

Ms. Stuckey received an email from the Coast Guard looking to set up a meeting to speak directly with the pilots concerning this matter. She is going to consult with Mr. Weist from New York and recommend that they include one maritime pilot from each state, one docking pilot and the chair of the Harbor Ops Committee in the meeting.

Ms. Stuckey attended the Port Authority's June 11th second quarter port users group meeting. They reported that the activity trends are better than expected, although they have not exceeded pre - pandemic levels. They anticipate that the impact of the tariffs will become clear in the next 29 days. They also reported

that the construction in the port, particularly the Corbin Street ramp, is on track to be completed by next summer.

Ms. Stuckey attended a meeting with the Port Authority. The Coast Guard and the New York Executive Director. Last month she provided the Commission with a copy of the letter the Port Authority received from the NTSB asking them to address navigational and operational issues with the Outerbridge Crossing. They put together a presentation on what they deemed as issues with their recommended solutions. They discussed replacing a Racon on the bridge that has not been operational for years, implementing speed restrictions and mandating tug requirements. They suggested that the attendees put together committees to address each item. Captain Andrechik addressed the issue of the Racon and advised them that they would have to complete an application to replace the current one, it would be considered a private aid, therefore they would have to fund its upkeep.

Ms. Stuckey addressed the issue of the speed restrictions and tug requirements and informed them that the Commissions are not the entities to have at the table to address those issues and instead of forming committees that they should bring their concerns to the Deep Draft Committee. They would study the issue and publish an advisory for the pilots.

Ms. Stuckey stated Captain Andrechik and his team agreed 100% that this is the group that should address these issues. Captain Miller is aware that they will contact him to discuss their recommendations.

Ms. Stuckey stated at the request of the Captain of the Port The Commendation ceremony has been rescheduled. He has an unexpected conflict and was willing to send a replacement but stated he would like to be there to present the commendation himself. The new ceremony will take place on Wednesday, July 2nd.

Ms. Stuckey reminded the Commissioners to send an email if they are available to attend.

Ms. Stuckey visited two schools this month to do presentations on piloting and the Maritime Industry, University High School and for Global Logistics. Apprentice Fred Dashkoff accompanied Ms. Stuckey to the Academy for Global Logistics and did a wonderful job. The apprentices are doing a great job in attending these types of events. She believes that the students relate to them because they are closer in age.

Ms. Stuckey will present them with certificates of appreciation and a small token from the Commission at the commendation ceremony.

Ms. Stuckey attended the June 21st Harbor Ops Meeting. Captain Andrechik gave an update on the proposal to reduce coastal bouys and atoms in lieu of current aids available. The Chair of Harbor Ops, Captain John DeCruz encouraged port users to submit comments in support of keeping the bouys and atoms. It was announced that Commander Villfane will rotate out of Sector New York in July and will be replaced by Commander Tim Banner. He will take over her role at Vessel Traffic Service.

Ms. Stuckey is hopeful that the transition will be smooth since Commander Villfane developed a positive working relationship with the pilots.

Ms. Stuckey has been contacted by New Jersey Transits General Counsel and will sit down with them next week to discuss updating the Commissions lease.

Ms. Stuckey announced that apprentice Kyle Sammis is scheduled to take his state exam the week of August 4th. Assuming he passes, he will come before the Commission at the September 16,2025 meeting.

Ms. Stuckey announced she will take vacation the week of July 21st. During that time, she will be available via email or cell phone.

Ms. Stuckey provided the Commissioners copies of the most recent pilot ladder deficiency report from Sandy Hook.

Ms. Stuckey announced that The Admirals dinner at SUNY Maritime on September 16th she advised any Commissioner interested in attending to please let her know and she will make the arrangements.

Ms. Stuckey provided the Commissioners with the most recent boater safety alert from the tunnel ground stabilization project.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commissioners articles of interest and encouraged them to read them at their leisure.

Committee Reports

Based on the investigation report, Ms. Stuckey recommend that the Commissioners close the file and find both pilots non-culpable.

A. Investigation Committee

1. M/N Torrence – May 8, 2025
2. Cuauhtémoc – May 17, 2025

The motion passed the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

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

Captain Ferrie reported that there has been an uptick in movements and believes it will be a busy summer with cruise ships coming in.

Captain Ferrie reported that the Rover is expected to arrive in August.

Captain Ferrie reported that the recommendations for the Port Jersey Channel have been finalized and Captain Miller will go into detail during his report.

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

Captain Miller gave the Commission a summary of the new guidelines put into place for arrivals and departures for Port Liberty Terminal in Bayonne.

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

Captain Richardson reported a busy month for Interport and thanked everyone who worked on the gangway issue

Captain Richardson reported that all is going well at Interport Pilots Association. Their pilot boats have gone through season maintenance and are back in operation.

Comments from Captain Russel Henschman President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Russel Henschman reported that everything is going well at Harbor Pilots and there was nothing new to report.

Resolution to Approve The 2024 Annual Report

Commissioner Dacey stated that Ms. Stuckey distributed the annual Report draft to the Commissioners electronically. She will not submit the report to the printer until Friday to give the Commission time to review it and provide feedback.

A motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report draft was made by Commissioner Fixmer; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve the 2024 Annual Report.

The motion passed the motion passed unanimously.

Video on Ground Stabilization Project

Ms. Stuckey showed the Commissioners a video on the status of the Hudson River Ground Stabilization Project.

Executive Session

Commissioner Dacey reported that the Commission will enter into Executive Session to interview Pilots, have personnel and legal discussions. Upon its return to public session, it is anticipated that the Commission will not take any action.

Ms. Stuckey read the following statement into the record:

Whereas, the Open Public Meeting 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.

Return to Public Session

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Dacey; seconded by Commissioner Kils, that the Meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.