

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission

January 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 Via-Zoom.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Brian McEwing (present); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (present); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (present)

Also included in the call were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director; Al Hawkins, Board Administrator; Captain Brendan Foley, President, Sandy Hook Pilots; Captain Kirk Pinto, President Harbor Pilots; Captain Adam Richardson, President Interport Pilots; Dorian Smith, Authorities Unit, John Lowenberg Esq., DAG.

Election of Officers

Ms. Stuckey read the names of the 2022 officers into the record; Timothy Dacey, President; Jacob Shisha, Vice President; Bjoern Kils, Treasurer; Charles Wowkanech Secretary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to nominate the officers as read into the record.

All voted in favor.

#### Committee Appointments

Commissioner Dacey made the attached Committee Assignments.

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to accept the President's Committee Assignments.

All voted in favor.

#### Approval of the December 20, 2022 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech to approve the December 20, 2022 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

#### Resolution #23-01 to approve the January, 2023 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to pass Resolution #23-01 to approve the January, 2023 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commission's rent agreement is in good standing and will remain the same until July 1, 2023. She advised that the Commission's rent agreement is subject to change based on the Consumer Price Index.

#### Executive Director's Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Jon Miller is under the weather and could not attend the meeting. Captain Pinto will report on behalf of Metro Pilots Association.

Ms. Stuckey welcomed Mr. Glenn Best, Director of Manufacturing and Supply Chain, Sector Strategies and Workforce Partnerships at the New Jersey Counsel of Community Colleges. She advised that Mr. Best is partnering with the Commission on an initiative in an effort make career information available to those who would not have access otherwise. Mr. Best will give the Commission a brief presentation of his initiatives during public comment.

- A. Pilot trip log - Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commission did not receive an updated pilot log. The completed log will be distributed after the meeting.
- B. Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection - The Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection process has begun. The Commission was sent a copy of the ad with their meeting materials. The ad will be published in the March issue of the Professional Mariner and Work Boat magazines with a deadline of April 15, 2023. Both issues will be distributed in February, which gives the applicants a month and a half to apply. The ad will also be published on the Maritime Association's online newsletter and at the suggestion of the Docking pilots, the ad was sent to Captain Chris Baker to put on the American Docking Pilot Association's website. Captain Baker stated that he has to confirm whether the ad can be displayed on their website. As soon as Captain Baker reports back, Ms. Stuckey will update the Commission. Additionally, the ad will be placed on the GCaptain's website. The Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee will include Ms. Stuckey, Commissioner Shisha, Captain Miller, Captain Pinto and Captain Richardson.
- C. Year End Report - The Commissioners were sent a copy of the Year End Report that was submitted to the Authorities Unit. Ms. Stuckey gave a brief summary of the report.
- D. FY22 Annual Report - Ms. Stuckey reported that she has begun gathering the information for the report. The theme this year will be centered on how the New Jersey/ New York port has become America's busiest container port. The stakeholders of the port will be highlighted because of their collaborative efforts to keep the vessel queuing to a minimum.
- E. Recurrent Training - Ms. Stuckey recommended that the CFR requirement on security awareness be the focus for the next recurrent training exercises. In the past, the Commission sponsored similar training. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission contract a programmer from MITAGS to put together an online training module that will allow the pilots to complete it at their leisure with a predetermined deadline. The training module would be programmed to send a certificate of completion to the Commission's office and once received, the pilot will receive a certificate of completion from the Commission.

The Commission agreed with Ms. Stuckey's recurrent training recommendation and advised her to proceed.

F. New York/ New Jersey HATS Project - The Commission was sent a proposal for the New York/ New Jersey HATS project. There will be two public meetings in Brooklyn this afternoon, one from 2pm-4pm and the other from 6pm-8pm. Ms. Stuckey advised that she plans to attend the earlier meeting virtually to ensure the Commission has the appropriate information on the project.

G. Articles of Interest - The Commission was given several articles of interest and encouraged to read them at their leisure. Ms. Stuckey reported that she would discuss one article in Executive Session. Ms. Stuckey pointed out the article about right whales washing up in Atlantic City. She reached out to the Coast Guard for comment and was told they would get back to her.

Captain Foley reported that there have been reports that the whale issue is due to the seismic drilling that is supporting the wind farms in Atlantic City.

After several discussions, Ms. Stuckey advised that she will continue to monitor and report any findings back to the Commission. She also thanked Commissioner Kils for bringing the information to her attention.

H. Vacation Schedule - Ms. Stuckey reported that there are no staff vacations planned at this time.

#### Public Comment (s)

Comments from Captain Brendan Foley, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Foley reported that the Sandy Hook pilot's year end numbers for total ship calls are up 1.5% from last year which is still down from 2019. They saw the cruise ship rebound and an uptick in container ships, most came from the issues on the West Coast. Tanker ships were down 10%, with a positive outlook for 2023. There was a very strong rebound in car ships in 2022.

Captain Foley reported that the United States Federal Government in late December signed in to Law the Water Resource Development Act of 2022. The bill will provide funding for numerous projects from flood control to eco system improvements, but the most important to this industry is navigation. Navigation will receive about two billion dollars for increasing the draft in the access channels in the New Jersey/ New York ports. There are various measures planned without a lot of details. Relevant to the container industry, they are proposing to increase the draft to the container berths to 17.4 meters which would be 54 feet plus 2. He advised that Captain Ellis and himself went to MITAGS to simulate the 55ft berths with a positive outcome, but it would be very good for the industry to get to 55 feet plus 2.

Captain Foley reported that Sandy Hook held their elections and there is a board in place, however the election of officers has not taken place. That meeting will take place on Thursday. He will notify the Commission of any changes. Captain Foley advised that the Executive Committee will be himself, Captain's Tim Ferrie and Len Evans. The Finance Committee will be Captain's Paul Torres, James R. Britton and James P. Britton.

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

Captain Richardson advised that he had nothing to report this month and all is going well at Interport. Captain Richardson advised that Interport Pilots hold their elections bi-annually.

Comments from Captain Kirk Pinto, President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Pinto reported that all of the Harbor pilots are healthy and very busy.

Captain Pinto reported that the Harbor pilots are looking forward to Apprentice Charles Fannon taking his state exam in February.

Discussion with Mr. Glenn Best, Director of Innovation & Technology Services, Strategy & Workplace Partnerships

Mr. Best thanked the Commission for the invitation to the meeting. Mr. Best gave a summary of his organization's initiatives and how they want to partner with the Commission to heighten the maritime awareness through local colleges.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she will be meeting with Newark Public Schools Superintendent to discuss the Newark Public Schools Cradle to College program that the Commission will be partnering with to familiarize middle school students with the maritime industry. Ms. Stuckey advised that she will be attending the organization's supply chain center meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> to bring awareness to students that are currently in college.

Discussion regarding the use of personal cellular dives while piloting

Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with an article on the Coast Guard's policy on the use of personal cellular devices that was published in 2010. The Commission was contacted unofficially by the Coast Guard to take another look at the Commission's personal cell phone policy. After several discussions, the Commission advised Ms. Stuckey to update the policy to include when it would be acceptable to use a cell phone and distribute it to all pilots and apprentices.

Executive Session

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 and seconded by Commissioner Shisha that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:44 AM.

#### Return to Public Session

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:49 AM.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Roberts that the meeting be adjourned.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.