

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission  
April 21, 2026**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on March 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 (ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM);  
Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (via ZOOM).

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 Henchman President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Azeem Chaudry Special Counsel, Authority's Unit (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Adam Richardson (present), Captain Scott Britton (via ZOOM), Captain Luke Carrick (via ZOOM), Captain Brian Paiva (via ZOOM), Apprentice Ryan Dashkoff (via ZOOM).

Approval of the March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to approve the March 17, 2026, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #26-08 to Approve the April 2026 Treasures Report

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey introduced and welcomed Azeem Chaudry, Special Counsel from the Authorities Unit as the Commission's new representative.

Mr. Chaudry introduced himself and stated his appreciation to be able to work with the Commission.

Ms. Stuckey announced that Captain Jonathan Miller sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting; Captain Russel Henschman will report on behalf of the Docking Pilots.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a copy of Commission's Advisory 26-002 regarding Foreign Flagged Public Vessels. The advisory was sent to all licensed pilots, registered apprentices and the Coast Guard via (USPS).

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a copy of Apprentice Robert Oldmixon's test summary. He will appear at the May 19 meeting for his swearing in ceremony. Ms. Stuckey stated that Apprentice Robert Oldmixon's father and his uncle are both retired New Jersey Maritime Pilots and will attend the May 19 meeting for Apprentice Oldmixon's swearing in ceremony.

Ms. Stuckey announced that the Rapid Tether System, designed by Commissioner Kils, has been received from the manufacturer. Ms. Stuckey gave a presentation and shared photographs of the Rapid Tether System with the Commission on how the system is supposed to work. The Commission is not ready to give the final approval for the system. Commissioner Dacey, Commissioner Kils and Ms. Stuckey will conduct an in-person inspection and provide feedback.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent an updated copy of the plans for OpSail 250 to the Commission, which are more detailed than previous versions. The new plans include a breakdown of the types and number of anticipated vessels. She noted two outstanding items; first there is no confirmation regarding the attendance of the President or any cabinet members, likely due to safety concerns. Second there is an ongoing issue regarding the participation of jet skis during the July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> festivities. The jet ski operators are concerned about the potential loss of revenue if they are shut down. Captain Andrechik has indicated that their operations will probably be shut down for safety reasons. He has convened a committee to research the issue and will report back with a final determination.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Gateway Tunnel Project is currently underway with no issues regarding funding. The Commission will continue to monitor its progress. After Captain Jonathan Miller reached out to the Gateway Development Corporation regarding the timeline, she

followed up with them to let them know that they need to stay as close to the original schedule as possible. They agreed and are working towards getting back on track.

Ms. Stuckey reported that during her quarterly meeting with the New York Executive Director, she learned that the New York Commission sent a letter to the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard recommending that REC services remain uninterrupted during government shutdowns. She provided a copy of the letter to the Commission with the materials and proposed that New Jersey follow suit.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the April 14<sup>th</sup> Pilot Terminal Round Table meeting. The Harbor Deepening Project was discussed. It is on track with work scheduled to begin in 2029 to be completed by 2030. They discussed the proposal to relocate the COLREGS Demarcation Line. There was no negative feedback regarding the proposal. The mourning plans previously introduced to the group were well received by the terminals. There were follow up meetings held with the docking pilots, line handlers, and dock workers that seemed to go well. Ms. Stuckey stated that although the situation is not 100% improved, it is a work in progress and things are getting better.

During the meeting the pilots proposed that transponders be placed on the cranes to enable real time readings of crane placement as they approach the dock. This would enable the pilots to call ahead if the cranes need to be moved. The Port Authority appeared open to the idea and stated they would research it.

Ms. Stuckey continued to express ongoing concerns that the problematic terminals do not attend the meetings. She intends to address her concerns with the Coast Guard after OpSail 250.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commission a proxy for the Maritime Association's annual meeting and elections. The Commission's proxy was sent to Steven Lyman in support of John Nardi as the Director.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Coast Guard's Hurricane Preparedness meeting is taking place this morning. Because she is unable to attend, Brendan Dolan has promised to send her the recovery policies and procedures for the Marine Transportation System in the event of a port closure due to a hurricane.

Ms. Stuckey reported that it has been confirmed that Captain Andrechik will rotate out of the Port on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, Commander McQuate, who is the head of Loss Prevention, will rotate on that date as well. Captain Doreen McCarthy, who is currently the Deputy Captain of the Port, will take over as Captain. The invitations for the Change of Command Ceremony, will get distributed in late June, and once it's received, she will circulate it to the Commission.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Newark Mayor's office contacted her regarding Essex Campus Academy. They requested that Ms. Stuckey speak to students about maritime careers within the supply chain. Instead of visiting the school, 10 to 12 students and their chaperones will visit the Commission's office. The presentation will cover careers within the supply chain.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the Elizabeth High School career fair on April 16. Additionally, she is scheduled to attend the EDC job fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to address the students regarding maritime careers.

Ms. Stuckey reported that there are currently no staff vacations planned, and she did not send any articles of interest.

## Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Committee held its first meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> to review the 74 applications received. Following an initial screening, 11 applications were disqualified for being incomplete or failing to meet physical requirements. The remaining 63 candidates were referred to IFP for testing, with results that are anticipated to be received by mid - July. Each Committee member will independently review the results and present their recommendations at the next meeting, scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the goal of narrowing the candidate pool down to 50 individuals for interviews. Additionally, Ms. Stuckey noted that at least five women are included in the current applicant pool.

## Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the open ad has been published in Work Boat Magazine and is also available on the Commission's website. She noted that the deadline for submitting applications is June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Commission received one application and one request for an application. Ms. Stuckey sent the Commission a copy of the ad with their meeting items.

Ms. Stuckey stated that she will coordinate with Committee members to schedule a meeting to review the applications and select candidates for interviews. She clarified that while the new list is being finalized, candidates from the previous list remain eligible to be called into service.

## Public Comment

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

Captain Ferrie reported that it's good to see everybody. He expressed appreciation for the Commissions willingness to write a letter to the Coast Guard about the regional exam centers being closed.

Captain Ferrie reported that he received a call from the Texas State Association inquiring how they were handling the issue. He forwarded them a copy of the New York letter. He hopes they can get that problem straightened out once and for all.

Captain Ferrie reported that business has been a little slow, but they've been busy helping with the plans for OpSail 250. He and Captain Mahlman attended numerous meetings in preparation of OpSail 250. He believes they come away from those meetings with more questions answered, and believes they've reached the tipping point.

Captain Ferrie congratulated Captains Luke Carrick and Captain Scot Britton on their upgrades, noting that they've done an excellent job.

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

Captain Henschman reported that he agrees with Captain Ferrie regarding the Sail Forth meetings. They are at the tipping point. The Docking Pilots just need to find out which of the tug companies are being awarded the contract, so both companies can finalize the plans. He has a meeting with Waypoint Marine, which is the parent agency handling all the Gray Hulls. He hopes to get some information, and they will go from there.

Captain Henschman reported that Lift Boat Vision the company that has been doing the core sampling for dredging projects for the Harbor Deepening and Channel Improvement Project is currently in the Newark Channel. The Pilots have daily communications with them.

Captain Henschman reported that due to travel he was unable to attend the Round Table meeting and Captain Alex Woodworth attended on his behalf.

Captain Henschman reported that the feedback indicates that the project remains a work in progress. While there have been notable improvements, terminals continue to express interest in further refinements, specifically regarding radio communication protocols and the marking of ship positions on the Berth.

Captain Henschman reported that Captain Joseph Bosch was deployed, and he is currently in transit to Diego Garcia. His specific assignment remains unconfirmed currently, but he intends to provide updates via email as his situation allows.

Captain Henschman reported that Apprentice Matthew Keenan is nearing the completion of his training. He has a minimal number of rides remaining; however, his progress is currently stalled. He has been waiting over a month for the REC to reopen, which is the final requirement needed to complete his Apprenticeship.

Captain Henschman reported that he has a handful of re-applicants for apprenticeship that will be coming in soon.

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

Captain Richardson reported that he would like to thank the Commission for following the New York Commission and writing a letter to the REC.

Resolution #26-09 to approve the 2025 Annual Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to approve the 2025 Annual Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dacey thanked everyone who contributed to the report.

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 10:23 am.

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 11:28 am.

Resolution #26-10 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Luke Carrick to Pilot of the Fourth Grade.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Luke Carrick to Pilot of the Fourth Grade.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### Adjournment

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.