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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission  
October 21, 2025**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on October 21, 2025.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:11 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 (ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (via ZOOM); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (via ZOOM).

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 Scott Esposito, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM); Captain James Britton, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association (present); Captain Russel Henschman President, Harbor Pilots Association (present).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Daniel Boylan (via ZOOM), Captain James P. Britton (present), Captain Paul Torres (via ZOOM), Captain Scott Esposito (via ZOOM), Captain Kenneth Barsch (via ZOOM), Captain Eric Lavin (via ZOOM), Captain Kyle Sammis (present), Captain Matthew Keenan (present).

Approval of September 16 ,2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech; seconded by Commissioner Roberts; to approve the September 16, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-27 to Approve the October 2025 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to approve the October 2025 Treasurers Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey announced that Captain Ferrie and Captain Miller could not attend the meeting and extended their apologies. Captain Esposito and Captain Britton will report on their behalf.

Ms. Stuckey welcomed the families of Captain Kyle Sammis and Captain Matthew Keenan who were in attendance for their swearing in ceremonies.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent the Commissioners a copy of a memo from the Authorities Unit regarding the annual ethics training, along with instructions on how to access the online module. She advised the Commissioners to complete the training and forward the receipts to her.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the certification of compliance is due on November 14<sup>th</sup>. She advised anyone having problems accessing the module to give her a call and she will talk them through it.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she received a memo from the Authorities Unit requesting information to be submitted to the incoming administration to aid in a smooth transition. She sent the Commissioners copies of the memo with the booklet that was put together and submitted to the Governor's office.

Ms. Stuckey reported that after receiving and reviewing comments on the proposed plan to eliminate navigational aids in the Northeast, the Coast Guard submitted a new proposal on eliminating aids on the approach to the Sandy Hook channel, the Ambrose channel and Chapel Hill channel.

Ms. Stuckey submitted comments on behalf of the Commission. She sent the Commissioners copies of the comments and a copy of the proposal with their meeting materials.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she will put together a list of meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year for the Commissioners to review. There will be a resolution on the agenda at the November meeting for them to approve the dates.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the OpSail 250 meeting with the Coast Guard on October 15<sup>th</sup>. She reported that there were a couple of changes from the previous plan. The parade of ships that was initially scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup> will now take place on July 4<sup>th</sup>, and the number of Military Vessels that are scheduled to attend has increased to 21 with the possibility of at least two more participating. The Coast Guard also anticipated what they referred to as a "ton of recreational vessels" that may attend and stated they don't have any way to track how many of these vessels will participate.

Ms. Stuckey inquired about shipboard activities and used the Cuauhtemoc as an example referring to the Commission's recommendations that were attached to the investigation report. Captain Andrechik stated that they are looking into the situation and appointed a committee to handle the issue and will revert once the plans are in place.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commissioners copies of the PowerPoint presentation that was given at the Opsail meeting.

Ms. Stuckey announced that she attended the September 17, 2025, Harbor Ops meeting. She highlighted the turnover at Waterways Management and the amended proposal on the aids to navigation in the Northeast which she reported on earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she is scheduled to work at the Sandy Hook Pilots Association from October 29<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. During that time Ms. Stuckey will meet with Kyle Weist from New York, Chris Maglin, Captain Tim Ferrie, Captain Jim Mahlman, and Commander Jack Olthuis. They plan to take three days to review the exam process, discuss any needed updates and discuss the need to have the apprentices complete the essays and draw the charts. The

Committee will review those items and bring any recommended changes back to the Commissions for approval.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she was hoping to be able to have the FY25 audit completed for the meeting however the auditor was waiting to receive the salary information from the Office of Management and Budget. The information was received, and she is anticipating that the audit will be completed for the Committee to review prior to the November meeting. There will be a resolution on the agenda for the Commission to approve the Committees recommendations.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent copies of the most recent pilot ladder deficiency report with the meeting items to the Commissioners.

Ms. Stuckey reported that NJDOT, the Maritime Association of New York and New Jersey and Rutgers are planning a regional meeting at Rutgers University to discuss infrastructure needs in New Jersey on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Stuckey will not attend the meeting however, she asked Captain Daniel Zorovich who will attend to provide the Commission with a report on the meeting.

Ms. Stuckey sent information on how to attend the meeting virtually in case any Commissioner is interested.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Pilots shut down pilotage operations for 48 hours during the Nor'easter October 11<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. Some vessels were allowed to anchor while others stayed offshore. Once operations resumed the pilots worked together to clear a backlog of approximately 34 vessels. Ms. Stuckey thanked all the pilots for doing a great job.

Ms. Stuckey reported that at last month's meeting the Commission received a report from a pilot regarding the lack of cooperation from the line handlers. At the meeting the pilot was advised to reach out to the other associations and advise them that Ms. Stuckey would contact the Captain of the Port and the Chair of Harbor Ops to rejuvenate the Pilot/Terminal Roundtable Meetings. These meetings were chaired by Captain Robert Flannery and once he became ill, no one stepped up to take over. The Captain of the Port and the Chair of Harbor Ops agreed that these types of meetings are necessary and will look to assign 2 people,

one from the Coast Guard and one from Harbor Ops to co-chair the meetings. Ms. Stuckey will attend the meetings and report back to the Commissioner's after each one.

Ms. Stuckey reported that The New York Commission has identified Bethanne Rooney as a replacement for retired Commissioner Lucienne Bulow. They have submitted her name for consideration and is waiting for the approval. Also, they will hold their end of the year meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Stuckey plans to attend the meeting and will report to the Commission.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she is going to start scheduling personal time off. Human Resources advised that she has 14 vacation days and 2 Administrative Leave days she needs to use before December 31<sup>st</sup>, or she will lose them. She plans to take 4 days the week of November 24<sup>th</sup> and 8 days the last 2 weeks of the year. As usual she will be on call checking voicemails, and emails daily and she will periodically come into the office to ensure all is okay.

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

#### Occurrence Review

Zim Asia - September 9, 2025. Based on the investigation report. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the file be closed with no fault found on the port of either pilot.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to accept the recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously.

## Public Comment

Comments from Captain James Britton, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Britton reported that the shutdown from the nor'easter, was a great collaboration between the Maritime Pilots, the Docking Pilots, tug companies, and agents for smooth exit and entry of all vessels that needed to depart and arrive.

Captain Britton reported that he is proud of everyone and thankful for all the help from both associations.

Captain Britton reported that in reference to the slowdown that has been reported, June, July and August were very robust for them. They noticed a slow down as they entered Q4 and believes the predictions everyone is writing about may come true.

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

Captain Henschman reported that in the last couple weeks there has been a minor slow down. Tanker activity has picked up over the last couple of days while the smaller volume has increased.

Captain Henschman reported that he spoke to Captain Mark Hershey and his recovery is going very well.

Captain Henschman reported that Matthew Keenan will be swearing in for his state license.

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

Captain Richardson thanked Captain Ferrie for an early notice that they were going to be shutting down offshore operations during the nor'easter.

Captain Richardson reported that it was nice to see other people at a couple dinners for the Liberty Nautical Society and the Virginia Maitland Sacs foundation. He congratulated Captain Kyle Sammis and Captain Matthew Keenan on becoming pilots.

Comments from Captain Scott Esposito, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Esposito reported that the first terminal round table meeting is set for January 6<sup>th</sup>. Captain John Miller has continuously worked with all the terminals about issues as they arise. He's been working for both companies to make sure all issues are addressed as quickly as possible.

Captain Esposito reported that the OpSail 250, contract hasn't been awarded, so it's hard for the association to plan.

Captain Esposito reported that they are back to full strength and Captain Mattson will be retiring soon.

Captain Esposito reported that the apprentices are performing well, and they are looking to take another apprentice off the list soon.

#### Resolution #25-28 To Approve Amendments to the Independent

##### Contractor's Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; To Approve the Amendments to the Independent Contractor's Agreement.

Ms. Stuckey reported that it is the same agreement that she provided to the Commissioners in September and no amendments were made. Once the Commissioner's approve it, she will overnight it to the investigators and have them execute it. It will become effective as of November 1, 2025.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### Resolution #25-29 To approve the upgrade of Peter Rooss to the

##### Pilot of Fourth Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to Approve the Upgrade of Peter Rooss to the Pilot of Fourth Grade.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Rooss is not present at the meeting, and his upgrade is part of the new upgrade schedule that the Commissioners approved for deputy pilots. His appearance is scheduled for November.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-30 To Approve the Issuance of a Deputy

Maritime Pilot License Kyle Sammis

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to Approve the Issuance of a Deputy Maritime Pilot License to Apprentice Kyle Sammis.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stuckey read into the record a statement from Chris Maglin regarding Apprentice Sammis.

Captain James Briton congratulated Captain Sammis on his accomplishments and looked forward to working with him.

Ms. Stuckey congratulated Captain Kyle Sammis and his family. She stated her pleasure at seeing his progress over the past 4 years and looked forward to his career as a pilot.

Captain Sammis was sworn in by Commissioner Kils.

Captain Sammis thanked his family, Sandy Hook, and Ms. Stuckey for the help they provided in his journey in becoming a pilot.

The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing in of Captain Matthew Keenan

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commission approved the issuance of Apprentice Matthew Keenan's license as a Docking Pilot at the September meeting.

Captain Keenan was sworn in by Commissioner Kils.

Ms. Stuckey stated her pride as she watched Captain Keenan grow during his apprenticeship.

Captain Henschman congratulated Captain Keenan and stated Harbor Pilots pleasure at seeing him licensed.

Captain Keenan thanked Harbor Pilots, Ms. Stuckey and his family in aiding him during his journey to become a pilot.

#### Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; Seconded by Commissioner Roberts 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 10:43 am.

#### Return to Public Session

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

The motion passed unanimously.

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

#### Resolution #25-31 To Approve the Upgrade of Captain James Britton to a Pilot of the Fourth Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to approve the upgrade of a Captain James Britton to a Pilot of the Fourth Grade.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-32 To Approve the Upgrade of a Captain Paul  
Torres to a Pilot of the First Class

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Kils; to approve the upgrade of Captain Paul Torres to a Pilot of the First Grade.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stuckey will swear in Captain Torres as a Full Branch Pilot at a later date.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts, that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.