

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

June 18, 2024

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (via ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (absent); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (via ZOOM).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director (present); Al Hawkins, Board Administrator (present); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, Sandy Hook Pilots (via ZOOM); Captain Kirk Pinto, President Harbor Pilots (via ZOOM); Captain Karl Gadow, Metro Pilots (via ZOOM); Dorian Smith, Authorities Unit (present), Don Occhipinti, Secretary Interport Pilots (via ZOOM); Susan Flynn-Hollander, Training Officer, State Ethics Commission (via ZOOM)

Approval of the May 28, 2024 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Kils to approve the May 28, 2024 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

Resolution #24-15 to approve the June, 2024 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #24-15 to approve the June, 2024 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Jon Miller was not available, and Captain Karl Gadow will report on behalf of Metro Pilots Association.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Adam Richardson was not available, and Captain Don Occhipinti will report on behalf of Interport Pilots Association.

Ms. Stuckey welcomed the family of Captain Steve Altini who was in attendance to witness his appointment as a Sandy Hook Pilot Apprentice.

- A. Pilot trip log - A copy of the pilot log was sent to the Commission.
- B. Meeting with the New York Commission - The meeting between the Apprentice Training Committee and the New York Commission is scheduled to take place on July 9th. The meeting is to discuss the proposed changes to the Maritime Pilot Apprentice Training Program. There will be an agenda item on the Commission's July 16th agenda to discuss the Committee's recommendation. Depending on the outcome, there may be a resolution on the August 20th meeting agenda for the Commission to act on.
- C. Harbor Inspection Tour - The Commission's Harbor Inspection Tour is scheduled to take place on June 28th. To date, there have been 58 rsvp's with the anticipation of more by the June 21st deadline. Former Commissioners Jake Shisha and Brian McEwing are scheduled to attend the tour and will be presented with plaques to honor their years of service. Ms. Stuckey updated the Commission on the tour's new program.
- D. Annual Report Distribution - The Annual report has been received and sent out. Ms. Stuckey advised that if there is anyone the Commission would like to include on the

distribution list, please email her their names and addresses and she will send them a copy of the report.

- E. Manned Model Training - The Commission approved a training grant to send a Maritime pilot apprentice to Manned Model Training in the FY24 budget. A request was received from the Sandy Hook Pilots to send apprentice Zachary Dietrich for training. Apprentice Dietrich is the next scheduled apprentice to sit for his state exam in February, 2025. Upon his completion of the training, he will submit a report to the Commission on his training experience.
- F. Coast Guard - The Commission was sent a copy of the letter regarding the relief of Commander David Ruhlig as the Commanding Officer of sector New York. The interim Commander will be Robert Garris.

There is a new Deputy of the port working under Captain Andrechik, Captain Doreen McCarthy. Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Andrechik and his senior staff will attend the Commission's July or August meeting. Captain Andrechik will not be able to attend the Harbor Inspection Tour however, Commander Mcquate will be attending on behalf of the Coast Guard.

- G. Meeting at High Exposure to Test Karabiners - Ms. Stuckey, Commissioner Kils, Andy Garger, Commissioner Ahlstrom and Captain Ferrie will travel to High Exposure to test Karabiners on the rigged ladder. If the testing goes well, both Commissions will have conversations regarding the introduction of the Karabiners to the regulated community.
- H. Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended recurring training at MITAGS to observe the classes. She advised that the classes went very well. The New Jersey Commission's practices are encouraged by the APA but are not followed by other Commissions. One practice is the New Jersey Commission's partnership with the Coast Guard and the willingness to take the lead role in any investigations.

A copy of a report from Captain Paul Torres regarding a power loss was provided to the Commission. The incident was similar to one of the simulation exercises at MITAGS. In his report, he used the lessons learned from the simulation exercise.

Mr. Chris Maglin gave a summary on how the program was put together. He advised that the pilots enjoyed the training, especially working through the simulation scenarios. The training was a group effort and the feedback that was received was very positive.

I. Mr. Maglin reported that the content of the Pilot Deficiency reports has not changed, but there are a few things being worked out. The part of the system that is being tweaked will make reporting easier to complete and streamline the distribution. The report will only be distributed internally and to interested parties.

J. Mandatory Ethics Training - Susan Flynn from the state Ethics Commission will provide mandatory in person ethics training to the Commissioners. This training will satisfy the Commissioners ethics requirements for this calendar year.

Ms. Stuckey advised that the training will be documented as part of the meeting minutes.

Public Comment (s)

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

Captain Ferrie welcomed Captain Steven Altini to the Sandy Hook Pilot's Apprentice Training Program and wished him well.

Captain Ferrie thanked all for participating in the continued education, he was impressed with the construction and finished product of the program.

Comments from Captain Karl Gadow, Vice-President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Gadow thanked Captain Thomas Farrell for his years of service. Captain Gadow advised that Captain Farrell announced his retirement as of June 28, 2024 and will be greatly missed.

Captain Gadow reported that Captain Andrew Beard has been released from the tug and will be piloting full-time. He believes Captain Beard will be good for the association.

Captain Gadow reported that the Port Authority announced that there is a large sum of Federal money that will be allocated to dredging for New York and New Jersey. He expressed that Metro Pilots Association is very happy about the decision.

Captain Gadow thanked the Commission for their consideration of their request for continuing education at MITAGS.

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

Captain Pinto reported that all is well and advised that Captain Joe Bosch is not completely of the tug, but he is doing very well.

Captain Pinto reported that the Federal money for dredging is a big help for the ports of New York/ New Jersey.

Comments from Captain Don Occhipinti, Secretary, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Occhipinti reported that the Interport Pilots are doing well, and they currently have 5 active pilots.

Captain Occhipinti reported that Interport is completing their emergency shipping simulation exercises at MITAGS.

Discussion Re: Recurring Training Program

Ms. Stuckey updated the Commission on the status of the recurrent training programs for all associations. She advised that the proposed training program for Harbor and Metro pilots combined is inline with the recurring training that has been mandated by the Commission. Once Metro and Harbor Pilots associations completed the proposed training programs, all associations will be up to date. The next round of training will be in 2 years.

Commissioner Dacey advised that he is very happy to see both Metro and Harbor Pilot Associations working together on the training program because the training will help the entire port.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dacey and seconded by Commissioner Kils to approve the Recurring Training Program for Metro and Harbor Pilots Associations.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #24-16 Approve the Appointment of Maritime Pilot
Apprentice Steven Altini.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she interviewed Mr. Altini four times and each time he was placed on the list. However, due to the economy and the rate new apprentices were being accepted, he did not make the cut off. Two years ago, when the Commission changed the age range, Mr. Altini applied again. She is pleased to see that his place on the current list allowed him the opportunity to be called into duty.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #24-16 to Approve the Appointment of Maritime Pilot Apprentice Steven Altini.

All voted in favor.

Mr. Altini thanked everyone for the opportunity and is very happy to be selected to the Sandy Hook Pilots Apprentice Training Program.

Commissioner Kils presented Mr. Altini with his Certificate of Appointment.

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 Roberts that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:32 AM.

Return to Public Session

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 10:55 AM.

Captain Ferrie expressed that he would like to inform the Commission about a few facts about the proposal that is before the Commission. He advised the Commission that Beth Rooney from the Port Authority recently gave a speech in which she reported that the traffic numbers predicted for 2027 continues to grow.

Captain Ferrie reported that in 2023, the Sandy Hook Pilots Association numbers were at an all-time low. By 2026 the Sandy Hook Pilots will have 18 pilots that are eligible for retirement.

Ms. Stuckey requested that the information be presented to the Commission in writing for further review.

Captain Ferrie added that if the length of the apprenticeship was decreased by a year, that will accelerate the licensing of pilots by approximately 2 years. He believes this will allow the Sandy Hook Pilots Association to be better equipped for the changes in the industry.

Ms. Stuckey advised that the Commission looks forward to receiving his report for review and will discuss it with the New York Commission during their meeting.

Commission's In Person Ethics Training

The Commission took part in their Mandatory In-Person Ethics Training.

Adjournment

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

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.