

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission
June 16, 2026**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on April 21, 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 (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (absent).

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 Henschman, President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Azeem Chaudry, Special Counsel, Authority's Unit (via ZOOM), Captain Jonathan Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Joseph Casaletto (via ZOOM), Captain Donald Occhipinti (via ZOOM), Captain Daniel Zorovich (via ZOOM), Captain Leonard Evans (via ZOOM),

annual and
Captain Brendan Foley (via ZOOM), Captain Jon Flanders
(via ZOOM).

Approval of the May 19, 2026, Regular Meeting
Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti;
seconded by Commissioner Kils; to approve the May 19,
2026, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #26-15 to Approve the June 2026
Treasures Report

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commission's Counsel,
Frederick Cohen, has retired. Morgan Rice has been
appointed as the Commissioners new Counsel. Ms. Stuckey
noted that she has been in contact with Ms. Rice and sent
her background information on the Commission. Ms. Rice
was in attendance and introduced herself to the
Commissioners.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Tina Vanderploeg has
returned from her leave of absence. Ms. Vanderploeg has
resumed her work with the Commission and is currently
working on the most recent incident report listed on the
agenda.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended two security meetings regarding OpSail 250. The first meeting was with the FBI, New Jersey Marine Police, and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. The second meeting was with the Authorities Unit, the New Jersey State Police, and the Department of Homeland Security. Ms. Stuckey noted that in each meeting, they discussed the concerns that the Commission had regarding the plans for OpSail 250. Ms. Stuckey stated that she will provide the Commission with more detailed information on the two meetings during Executive Session.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the parking placards approved by the Commission were sent to all New Jersey licensed Pilots and Apprentices, along with a memo advising them that the placards should only be used for official purposes. Ms. Stuckey noted that the New York Pilots have requested that the New York Commission follow suit and issue similar placards. The New York Commission has not made a decision. Ms. Stuckey stated that she will keep the Commission updated and inform them accordingly.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the last OpSail 250 meeting for the Port Stakeholders at Fordham University. She sent the Commission copies of the final plans for the event. Ms. Stuckey noted that the only changes from the plan will be if any of the tall vessels cancel their participation in the parade. Ms. Stuckey stated that she would provide the Commission with more detailed information about the changes during Executive Session.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she has updated the current contact list for the Commissioners, staff, State Representatives, and the Association Presidents. Copies of the updated list were distributed to the Commissioners with their meeting materials. Ms. Stuckey requested that any Commissioner whose information needs to be updated to contact to her directly.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the career fair at Cliffside Park High School, at the request of Commissioner Dana Martinotti. She described the event as a positive experience and expressed her gratitude to Commissioner Martinotti, for the invitation.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Right Whale comments the Commission directed her to submit to the Department of Commerce were submitted. The comments supported the alternative recommendations provided by the pilots, rather than the removal of existing restrictions. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission a copy of the final letter, which was included in their meeting materials.

Ms. Stuckey announced that the Captain of the Port's Change of Command Ceremony for the Port of New York and New Jersey will be held on July 20th at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Wadsworth. Ms. Stuckey and Commissioner Kils are currently scheduled to attend. Ms. Stuckey noted if any Commissioners are interested in attending, to contact her and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that an invitation was received for the Change of Command Ceremony for the Northeast District in Boston. A copy of the invitation was provided to the Commissioners with the meeting materials. Ms. Stuckey noted that she does not plan to attend; however, if anyone from the Commission is interested in attending, to contact her and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the REC has reopened and resumed the processing of applications and testing. She noted that the REC is currently prioritizing individuals whose applications were approved prior to the shutdown. Ms. Stuckey stated that an apprentice pilot who was waiting on one final piece of pilotage was able to complete his testing and has successfully passed.

Ms. Stuckey confirmed that she has contacted Ken Skutches to express appreciation for the RECs efforts in prioritizing those applications.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commissioners should have received an invitation from the Sandy Hook Pilots Association for the Fourth of July festivities. She encouraged those who have not yet done so to RSVP for the event. Ms. Stuckey announced that the Sandy Hook Charitable Foundation will host a festival on the pier from 10:00 a.m. To 3:00 p.m. The Foundation will be selling items to raise funds for the organization.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she has received the 2026 Second Quarter Carrier report. She advised anyone interested receiving a copy to email her and she will send a copy by mail (USPS). She also informed the Commission that she is scheduled for in person Jury Duty June 17th. She noted while she is out of office Ms. Shahima Hudson will be in the office and available to contact her in the event of any emergencies.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she will be on vacation June 25th, 26th, 29th, and 30th. Although she is on vacation, she will be on call. Her Administrative Assistant, Shahima Hudson, will be in the office and will contact Ms. Stuckey if any urgent matters arise that requires her attention.

Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Committee has begun receiving test results for the 60 applicants referred for testing. Two individuals did not schedule their tests, which reduced the count down to 58. However, due to a system error regarding one applicant's paperwork, that person was permitted to test, bringing the total back to 59. The Committee will meet on August 3rd to review these

results. They will try to narrow the pool to 50 applicants for interviews. The interviews will take place in October.

Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Committee has received a total of nine applications. The Committee will hold a virtual meeting on June 23rd to review the applications and determine which to interview and schedule dates. Ms. Stuckey noted that the current list of applicants is set to expire, however the new list will become effective as soon as it is approved by the Commission. Three individuals from the current list have reapplied and will maintain their status on the current list while the new list is being established. The Committee hopes to finalize the new list by the fall.

Public Comment

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

Captain Ferrie reported that the month of May was a strong month, with business rebounding and tanker business improving.

Captain Ferrie reported that Sandy Hook Pilots are well prepared for the upcoming OpSail 250 event and are confident it will go successfully.

Captain Ferrie reported that the contracts with the tugboat companies have been finalized. He expressed empathy for the companies, noting that they have been under significant pressure while waiting to learn which ships they would be assigned. Now that these details are being clarified the entire situation is successfully coming together.

Captain Ferrie announced that there will be a Deep Draft Committee meeting regarding shoaling in the Arthur Kill.

Comments from Captain Jonathan Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Miller reported that the Deep Draft Committee has been working on the shoaling in the Arthur Kill.

Captain Miller reported that Metro Pilots was aware of some potential issues before a formal survey confirmed the need to reduce drafts.

Captain Miller reported that the max draft for ships in that area will now be restricted.

Captain Miller reported that Metro Pilots has been working with the Army Corps and the Port Authority regarding the 55-foot project and the widening of Newark Bay.

Captain Miller reported that they're currently working on a project involving AIS transponders on the cranes. He noted that the guidelines include crane rules requiring cranes to be raised, moved or centered in berths and referenced previous assistance from the Commission through a letter regarding those requirements.

Captain Miller stated that the AIS transponders will be placed on the tips of the cranes. He reported that Trelleborg and Safe Pilots are working together on beta testing the technology.

Captain Miller stated that they are looking forward to the project and its completion.

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

Captain Richardson reported that all Interport Pilots are healthy and actively working.

Captain Richardson reported that Interport is preparing their boats for summer maintenance and completing several electronic upgrades.

Captain Richardson reported that an increase in tanker traffic and stated that, the association is pleased to see the increase.

Captain Richardson expressed optimism and is looking forward to a busy summer.

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

Captain Henschman reported Captain Matthew Keenan was onboarded as a fulltime pilot for the Harbor Pilots Association and has successfully completed his first full rotation. He noted that this is a significant accomplishment for the group.

Captain Henschman reported that OpSail 250 is nearing completion after a substantial amount of planning and numerous changes to operational plans. He stated that the tugboat companies have been awarded most of the contracts, although a few vessel assignments may remain outstanding.

Captain Henschman reported that a final plan of action for the week is now in place and that all pilots are prepared for the event.

Captain Henschman expressed confidence that all participating pilot groups are ready and stated that he is looking forward to July 9th, when the event concludes. He added that it should be a very successful operation.

Updated Docking Pilot Monthly Apprentice Training Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Docking Pilot Apprentice Training Report has been updated to include a section for supervising pilots to provide comments regarding the Apprentices performance. The comments are intended to document how the Apprentice is progressing, including both positive and negative observations, with the goal of making the reporting process cleaner and more consistent.

Ms. Stuckey stated that the revised report is expected to become effective on July 1st.

Ms. Stuckey advised that the updated report and an accompanying memorandum will be sent to the Presidents to review before distribution. The memorandum will notify all current Apprentices that the revised report will be effective July 1st.

Grant Requests for the 9/11 Memorial

Ms. Stuckey reported that she was contacted by a New York Pilot, Captain Neil Keating, regarding a group seeking to establish a 9/11 Memorial at the Sandy Hook Pilots Base. She noted that the group is not affiliated with the Sandy Hook Pilots but wishes to construct the memorial at the space on the base where vessels are docked.

Ms. Stuckey Stated that the purpose of the memorial is to commemorate the efforts and contributions of the Pilots during 9/11.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the group has approached the New York Commission and other entities to seek donations toward the development of the memorial.

Captain Ferrie reported that a meeting was held with Captain Keating and the gentleman who owns the monument company, has offered to donate his services. The project is estimated to be \$33,000.

Captain Ferrie reported that additionally, a professional landscaper visited the site to evaluate the location and provide recommendations for the placement of the memorial.

Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission donate \$1,000 or \$2,000 toward the 9/11 Memorial.

The Commission agreed to donate \$2,500 to the 9/11 Memorial.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; Seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to donate \$2,500 towards a 9/11 memorial.

The motion passed unanimously.

Captain Ferrie expressed his gratitude to the Commission for their support of the 9/11 Memorial.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils; Seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; 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 10:29 am.

The motion passed unanimously.

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 12:28 pm.

Adjournment

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm.