



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Phone: 401-222-2985
Fax: 401-222-6823

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9:30am
through ZOOM Videoconferencing

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair
Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Dean Hoxsie, RIDEM, Chief, Div. of Law Enf., Member
Jason McNamee, RIDEM, Dep. Director, Member

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NE Marine Pilots Assoc.
Chris Murray, NE Marine Pilots Assoc.
Sean Bogus, RI State Pilot Board, NEMP Assc.
David Gray, Chair, RI State Pilot Board, NEMP Assc.
Atty. Christina Hoefsmit, Legal Counsel for RISPC
JoAnne Scorpio, RIDEM, Secretary for RISPC
Ed LeBlanc, Marine Affairs Mgr., Orsted
Justin Mosely, Project Manager, Orsted,
Ted Sanford, Jr., Apprentice, NE Marine Pilots Assoc.
Matthew J. Stevens, Apprentice, NE Marine Pilots Assoc.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place through Zoom videoconferencing on January 7, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30am. After a roll call was taken, Chair McVay confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. DECEMBER 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES VOTE:

Commissioners reviewed the December 3, 2020 draft meeting minutes. No revisions were made, Chair McVay then entertained a **MOTION** to approve the draft meeting minutes. Commissioner McNamee **MOVED** to accept the December 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *4-0 to approve*.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **Pilot Accident Protocol:** Member Dean Hoxsie stated that he was pleased with how the draft protocol looked and wanted to get packages ready to keep at the Marine Base. He added that the packets will include data collection procedure for EPOs, any forms that have to get signed, and seizure information. He also advised that a Zoom meeting should be conducted with the

E. Howard McVay, Chair
J. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Jason McNamee, Member
Dean Hoxsie, Member

commission chair and marine unit sergeants and lieutenants to discuss basic training for the EPO's.

Chair McVay suggested that after everyone is vaccinated, a training session should be conducted aboard a car carrier in Davisville to show the EPOs where the VDR is located. He also recommended that the EPOs should coordinate with the Pilot office (Chris Murray) to get themselves safely aboard the vessel. Commissioner Hoxsie said he will draft that procedure for the packet as well.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1) **Update from Executive Director, Northeast Marine Pilot Assoc.:**

The Chair stated that he was going to add to all future monthly meeting agendas: "Update from Executive Director, Northeast Marine Pilots Assoc." to bring forward any issues and/or important information that should be brought to the commission's attention.

Capt Costabile gave an update on vaccines for the pilots. He pointed out the risk that the pilots endure each day and the high importance of them getting vaccinated asap. He stated that Capt. Walker has reached out to the RI Emergency Mgmt. Agency for advice on getting the (state) pilots vaccinated. Commissioner McNamee offered his assistance to the pilots.

2) **Orsted Proposal for Pilot Exemption:** Chair McVay advised that Ed LeBlanc, Orsted, Marine Affairs, sent the Commission another request for a pilot exemption. The work to be performed is the installation of cable which is relatively close to the Block Island shore line (closest point of the installation work is approximately 1000 yds. from the shoreline), and then survey the rest of the cable out to the wind farm. Project Mgr., Justin Mosely, described the details of the work which will take place from the foreign flagged (UK) "Global Symphony". He added that the projected work will take approximately ten days, weather permitting, and then an additional four days of survey work. The vessel is due to set sail on Feb. 1st. Once the ship is cleared for US and state waters, work should begin on Feb 14th or 15th. The Chair stated that when the ship comes into anchorage, a pilot will have to board the ship to clear customs and then a pilot will board the ship leaving.

Chair McVay then proposed that the Commissioners discuss Orsted's proposal. He advised that it would be in the state's best interest to have a pilot on board during operations because of the ship's close proximity to the shoreline. He reiterated that he was uncomfortable not having a pilot on board especially being unfamiliar with the vessel (Global Symphony). He added that it is the Commission's responsibility to protect the state and the environment from any potential incidents/hazards.

Vice Chair Fritz commented that he had two issues with the exemption. 1) He was against not having a pilot on board the ship; and 2) he questioned why a foreign flagged vessel was performing the work opposed to a US-flagged ship. Mr. LeBlanc advised that he supported using US flagged vessels, however; they were not able to secure one at this time.

After discussions took place between commissioners, pilots, and Orsted representatives, commissioners came to a resolution. The Chair said he would draft requirements/restrictions for a pilot exemption for the Global Symphony. He also said he will consult Capt.'s Costabile, Murray, Walker, and Bogus (NEMP) for their input. He then entertained that a vote be taken to approve the major points discussed and what the pilots and commissioners agreed on. Commissioner Hoxsie made a **MOTION** that a senior pilot who is certified in "DP for the Pilot", would board the vessel, Global Symphony, for a restricted amount of time, beginning with the vessel coming into anchorage for US customs clearance. The Pilot would then bring the ship directly to the worksite, observe the DP engage, verify the systems for a period of two hours, and then a second senior pilot would board the vessel to relieve the first pilot. After a period of 4 hours, if both pilots confer and agree that everything is functioning smoothly; and both agree that a pilot is no longer necessary, the ship would be cleared to operate without a pilot and the second pilot would disembark the ship. However, if there is an issue or failure with any of the components on the DP/II, the vessel will halt operations, leave the worksite, the pilot will alert the pilot office and then the commission. Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. *4-0 in favor.*

- 3) **Apprentice Pilot Interviews:** Two candidates responded to the "Notice of Pilotage Apprenticeship" that was posted on the RISPC webpage in November. Both candidates, Ted Sanford, Jr. and Matthew Stevens were invited to the open (zoom) meeting to meet commissioners. Vice Chair Fritz asked each pilot to introduce himself and give a summary of their training, experience, and what their interests in pilotage were. Each candidate was given separate time to discuss their credentials and answer questions from the commissioners. After the interviews, Chair McVay entertained that a **VOTE** be made to approve both candidates. Vice Chair Fritz made the **MOTION** to approve Ted Sanford, Jr. and Matthew Stevens for Block Island Sound apprenticeship. Commissioner Hoxsie **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. *4-0 approved.*
- 4) **Capt. Maco's Bond Cancellation:** The Chair stated that Commissioner McNamee received Capt. Maco's "*notice of bond cancellation*". Capt. Maco did not renew his license for 2021 and is officially retired after serving 37 years with the Northeast Marine Pilots.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, The Chair entertained that a **MOTION** be made to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:35 a.m. Member Hoxsie **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. *4-0 to adjourn.*

***Remainder of 2021 Meeting Schedule:**

Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2021	
	July 1
February 4	August 5
March 4	September 2
April 1	October 7
May 6	November 4
June 3	December 2

*Meeting dates are subject to change.

/js