



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, February 4, 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.
Clint Walker, 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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place through Zoom videoconferencing on Thursday, February 4, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40am. After a roll call was taken, Chair McVay confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. January 7, 2021 MEETING MINUTES VOTE:

Commissioners reviewed the January 7, 2021 draft meeting minutes. Chair McVay then entertained a **MOTION** to approve the draft meeting minutes as written. Vice Chair Fritz **MOVED** to accept the January 7, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *4-0 to approve*.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

1) Communications:

- a. NTSB, 2019 accident investigations
- b. Letter from the Fisherman's Advisory Board

2. Updates from Northeast Marine Pilot Association:

Capt. Walker stated that the Northeast Pilots have been in contact with DEM and Emergency Management of RI regarding vaccines for the state pilots. He said the pilots are on the prioritize vaccine list, however, they have not heard from anyone to date.

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

Capt. Walker also advised that the apprentice pilot training is progressing and Capt. Sanford and Stevens have both been working in New Bedford and Cape Cod Canal.

Capt. Walker and Costabile explained procedure the pilots followed to avoid exposure to COVID when a crewmember on a vessel coming into state waters had tested positive.

3. Apprentice Pilot Updates:

State Pilot Board Chairman Capt. Gray stated that Board Members (Bogus, Walker) have reviewed Capt. Sanford, Jr's evaluation reports and have certified him for the Block Island Sound exam. Capt. Gray also added Apprentice Pilot Stevens just completed his final trip over Block Island Sound. The Board will send Capt. Stevens's certification and trip sheets to the commission in the next few days so both pilots can be scheduled for exam at the same time.

Chair McVay then entertained a motion to approve both apprentice pilots, Capt. Sanford, Jr. and Capt. Stevens, for the Block Island Sound exam pending receipt of Capt. Steven's certification from the State Pilot Board and receipt of trips sheets for both pilots. Vice Chair made the **MOTION**; Commissioner McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. *Voted 4-0 to approve.*

4. ORSTED:

a. Deep Helder: The Chair explained that he reached out to the fishing community regarding concerns they had or claims of damages to fishing equipment while the "Deep Helder" was in operation in RI waters. McVay advised that representatives for the fishermen claimed the Deep Helder damaged fishing equipment during the time the vessel was in operation without a pilot. He also noted that a fishing observer was on the vessel during operations.

Vice Chair Fritz expressed his concerns and asked Marine Affairs Mgr. Ed LeBlanc why the commission was not notified of the reported damages to the fishing equipment. Mr. LeBlanc replied saying they met their requirements as expressed in the exemption letter for the Deep Helder. He also advised the incident was reported in their logs and an email was sent out.

b. Global Symphony: Mr. LeBlanc also stated that Survey Vessel, Global Symphony, has declined to have a fishing observer stressing that their crew is well trained to identify fishing gear. He also said he has concerns with Covid19 considerations and having an outside organization select and approve the fishing observer. Commissioners discussed and agreed that it would not be necessary to have a fishing observer on board the GS at this time. Atty. Hoefsmitt will edit the draft exemption letter to remove any references of a fishery observer requirement for the Global Symphony.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, The Chair entertained that a **MOTION** be made to adjourn the meeting. Member Dean Hoxsie **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30a.m. Member Jason McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. 4-0 to adjourn.

***Remainder of 2021 Meeting Schedule:**

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

*Meeting dates are subject change.

/js