



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 9:30am

Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence RI 02903 and via Zoom

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair
Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Jason McNamee, RIDEM, Deputy Director, Member
Lt. Michael Schipritt, RIDEM, Division of Law
Enforcement

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Murray Executive Director, NEMP Assn.
Christina Hoefsmit, Esq., Legal Counsel for RISPC
Mary Dalton, RIDEM, Secretary for RISPC
Rich Astles, NEMP Association
Vince Kirby, NEMP Association
Sean Bogus, NEMP Association

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place in Room 300, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI and via Zoom on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. After a roll call was taken, Chairman McVay confirmed that a quorum was present.

I. INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE PUBLIC

II. MARCH 3, 2022 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the March 3, 2022 meeting. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to accept the minutes as presented. Lt. Schipritt **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *4-0 to approve*.

III. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

Chairman McVay stated that the Commission had received a report from Capt. Gray regarding an incident at Pier 1 Davisville. All Commission members reviewed the report. Chairman McVay stated that he went to the site and stated there was no significant damage. He further stated that the pier is not properly fendered. Lt. Schipritt asked who is responsible for setting the standards and maintaining these facilities and at what point does the Commission say we will not be docking there. Chairman McVay stated it had happened previously at Wilksbarre pier where the pilots refused to bring in the ships and the terminal sued the pilots. He stated that he informed the terminal operator that he had to sue the Commission first because the Commission licenses the pilots but eventually the lawsuit was dropped.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE COMMISSION

There was no communication sent by the Commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of pilot licenses, certifications and medicals for 2022.:

Ms. Dalton stated that no licenses were up for expiration.

b. Pilotage Commission accident investigation protocol and VDR recovery

Lt. Schipritt advised that there had been one more boarding with two officers. He further stated that he would like to get at least the supervisors aboard so they would be familiar with the equipment and procedure and only two supervisors had been able to go so far.

c. Pilot President/NEMP Executive Director

Capt. Astles stated there was a question about ships coming into Block Island Sound wanting to transfer wind farm equipment from one vessel to another. These would be outside of the state waters of New York and Rhode Island but still in Block Island Sound. Chairman McVay stated these vessels are trying to avoid the tariffs on the foreign made equipment by never clearing the port and the CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) and also avoiding bringing a pilot onboard. Chairman McVay further stated that there is court precedence that requires that all ships in Block Island Sound to take a pilot.

Capt. Murray stated that fuel costs had increased and therefore the pilot boat surcharge had been raised from \$260.00 to \$320.00 effective April 15th. This surcharge had not been raised since 2007.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman McVay stated that the Commission had voted previously to issue all licenses without the word "plantations". He further stated that he would like to reissue all licenses to full branch pilots as well as the new probationary licenses (contingent upon passing the upcoming examination) without "plantations" as well. Ms. Dalton stated she would have these available at the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, The Chair entertained a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:36 a.m. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to adjourn**.

2022 Meeting Schedule:

June 2
July 7
August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 1

*Meeting dates are subject to change.

/md