



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 9:30am

Room 425A, 235 Promenade Street, Providence RI 02903 and via Zoom

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Jason McNamee, Deputy Director, RIDEM, Chair
Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Capt. Vincent Kirby, RISP
Lt. Michael Schipritt, RIDEM, Division of Law
Enforcement

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place in Room 425A, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI and via Zoom on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. After a roll call was taken, Chairman McNamee confirmed that a quorum was present. Chairman McNamee stated that there were some additions to the proposed agenda to include discussion of the EVER FORWARD grounding and security report received from the US Coast Guard. After making these additions to the agenda, Chairman McNamee requested a motion to accept the agenda with these additions.

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to accept the agenda with the additions. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *4-0 to accept*.

I. NOVEMBER 17, 2022 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the November 17, 2022 meeting. Chairman McNamee noted some typographical errors in the draft minutes.

Lt. Schipritt **MOVED** to accept the minutes with appropriate corrections. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *4-0 to approve*.

II. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission received letters requesting probationary upgrades to Step 5 from Theodore Sanford and Matthew Stevens along with supporting documentation.

Chairman McNamee stated that any communications to the Commission should go to both him and Ms. Dalton at the very least.

III. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE COMMISSION

Ms. Dalton stated that a sympathy card was sent to former RIPC Chairman Howard McVay from the Commission for the recent loss of his mother.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission received requests for upgrades for probationary pilots Theodore Sanford and Matthew Stevens. Capt. Astles stated that these upgrades are supported by the pilots. Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to upgrade probationary pilots Theodore Sanford and Matthew Stevens to Step 5. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, 4-0 to approve.

Chairman McNamee presented the Commission's proposed meeting calendar for 2023 with the meetings remaining on the first Thursday of the month.

Capt. Kirby **MOVED** to approve the 2023 meeting calendar as presented. Vice Chairman Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, 4-0 to approve.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

Ms. Dalton stated that she had received all medical exams and medical certificates had been issued.

b. Pilot President/NEMP Executive Director

Capt. Murray stated that there may be an issue with the cable laying vessels (Mayflower) in the Sakonnet River and that the Sakonnet River was not a pilotage area. Chairman McNamee stated that perhaps the Commission could draft a letter granting a waiver and/or exemption or maybe there would have to be a regulatory change. Capt. Murray stated he will contact Mayflower to request more details such as the scope and their schedule.

Capt. Astles stated that the probationary pilots might be ready for their next upgrade in March.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Continued discussion on Pilotage Commission advisory bodies

Capt. Kirby provided a handout to the Commission regarding the Rhode Island Pilot Advisory Board (RIPAB) and the Pilot Training Advisory Panel (PTAP) that defined the purpose, composition and activity of these advisory bodies. Chairman McNamee stated that the goal was to explicitly define these bodies and would like for this to be an action item for the Commission at the next meeting.

b. Grounding of EVER FORWARD cargo ship

Capt. Kirby provided the Coast Guard's investigative report into this accident that occurred on March 13, 2022. He stated that the pilot was late with a turn in the Chesapeake Bay due to human error by cell phone use. Capt. Murray provided a copy of the NEMP's "Electronic Device Use Policy" that went into effect in January 2023 in response to the EVER FORWARD.

c. Coast Guard security report

Lt. Schipritt provided some of the security review that the United States Coast Guard had conducted at Providence and Quonset. One of the relevant items for the Commission that was pointed out was the lack of a duress code between the pilots and the ships.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:43 a.m. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0** to adjourn.

2023 Meeting Schedule:

February 2 nd
March 2 nd
April 6 th
May 4 th
June 1 st
July 6 th
August 3 rd
September 7 th
October 5 th
November 2 nd
December 7 th

*Meeting dates are subject to change.
/md