



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 12:00pm

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jason McNamee, Deputy Director, RIDEM, Chair
Vincent Kirby, RISPC
Deputy Chief Michael Schipritt, RIDEM
Rick Comeau, RISPC

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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, October 12, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. Chairman McNamee called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. After a roll call was taken, Chairman McNamee confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chairman McNamee introduced the RISPC's new member, Rick Comeau, and welcomed him to the Commission.

I. MAY 4, 2023 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the May 4, 2023 meeting.

Capt. Kirby **MOVED** to approve the May 4, 2023 meeting minutes. Deputy Chief Schipritt **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to approve**.

II. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

Ms. Dalton stated that the Commission received a copy of the New York Pilotage Commission's Annual Report. Ms. Dalton further stated that the Commission had received updated federal credentials from Matthew Stevens.

As a follow up from the May meeting, Chairman McNamee stated that the Commission has not yet received a new exemption request from Boskalis. Capt. Astles stated that the USCG determined that anchorage could only be in designated areas (no use of dynamic positioning) so Boskalis is no longer interested in a exemption for Block Island Sound.

III. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE COMMISSION

None sent however Chairman McNamee stated that he has a Commendation from the Governor for Peter Fritz for his service on the Commission and would be sending a letter from the Commission.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Commissioner training: Chairman McNamee stated that he has consulted RISPC legal counsel Ms. Giguere regarding the required new commissioner training. Ms. Giguere stated that new commissioners (within 60 days of appointment) need to complete training in the Open Meetings Act (OMA), the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), and the Code of Ethics. The OMA and APRA trainings are offered online by the state and Ms. Dalton will send out the link. Ms. Giguere asked the commissioners to provide the dates of completion to Ms. Dalton for these trainings if taken previously as they are a “one time” training and Ms. Dalton will keep a record. Ms. Giguere further stated that the other part of the new commissioner training is regarding the rules and regulations for the Commission and she would provide that training at the next meeting.

b. Annual Meeting/Public Hearing: Chairman McNamee asked if there was going to be any requests for changes at the annual meeting. Capt. Kirby stated that there would be nothing for this year but was working on some things for the future. Chairman McNamee then asked about the size of the Commission and possibly adding a new member in order to help maintain a quorum. Ms. Giguere confirmed that meeting had to be held in person. Capt. Kirby asked what criteria would be used to identify an additional member. He further suggested possibly changing meeting locations in order to maintain a quorum. Deputy Chief Schipritt asked if the Commission was required to meet monthly and the answer was no. Capt. Kirby reminded the Commission that any new apprentice pilots are on a 60 day cycle for upgrade. After more discussion, Chairman McNamee suggested that options for the meeting schedule be discussed at next month’s meeting on November 2nd. Ms. Dalton also stated that the Commission would need to elect a new Vice Chairman at next month’s meeting.

Chairman McNamee requested a motion on holding the Commission’s Annual Meeting during the November 2, 2023 meeting. Capt. Kirby so **MOVED** and Deputy Chief Schipritt **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to approve.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of pilot licenses, certifications and medicals for 2023.

Ms. Dalton stated that the annual reminder to the pilots to submit their 2023 physicals would be going out because they are due by December 31.

b. Pilot President/NEMP Executive Director

Capt. Astles gave an update on the new pilots and stated that there were 10 candidates and 2 would be starting soon. He further stated that smaller vessels are not taking on pilots that should be and many of these vessels are coming from areas where there is not pilotage requirement. He has been working with the USCG’s Sector Southeastern New England (who is responsible for enforcement) to ensure that these vessels are aware of the pilotage requirements and that Sector SENE has published a Marine Safety Information Bulletin that provides this information.

Director Murray stated that they are looking for options for “open” phone line for the pilot boats as it is very expensive. He also stated that they have rebuilt the engine on one of the pilot boats and they hired a grant writer for new pilot boats but it was unsuccessful. A new 53’ pilot boat is \$3.1 million. He did state that the electronics on the boats have been upgraded.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Deputy Chief Schipritt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:10 p.m. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS** 4-0 to adjourn.

2023 Meeting Schedule:

November 2 nd
December 7 th

*Meeting dates are subject to change.
/md