



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, March 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:

Chris Murray Ex. Director, NEMP Assn.
Sean Bogus, RI State Pilot Board, NEMP Assn.
Clint Walker, RI State Pilot Board, NEMP Assn.
Atty. Christina Hoefsmitt, Legal Counsel for RISPC
JoAnne Scorpio, RIDEM, Secretary for RISPC
Ed LeBlanc, Marine Affairs Mgr., Orsted
Capt. Matthew Stevens, NEMP Assn.
Capt. Ted Sanford, Jr., NEMP Assn.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission took place through Zoom videoconferencing on Thursday, March 4, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:43am. After a roll call was taken, Chair McVay confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. February 4, 2021 MEETING MINUTES VOTE:

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

III. OLD BUSINESS:

1) Communications:

Chair McVay stated that he emailed the Commission a letter he sent to the *Newport Historical Society* requesting their support for the installation of a generator that will prevent power outages at the Pilot base station in Newport, RI.

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

2. Global Symphony Updates:

Orsted Marine Affairs Mgr. Ed LeBlanc advised that the GS recently set sail. There was a COVID issue that delayed the ship's departure date. The ship remained in So. Hampton, Eng. for the remainder of the quarantine time. Mr. LeBlanc said the vessel is now underway and everyone aboard is COVID free. The ship is scheduled to arrive in Providence on March 17th and then depart Providence on March 19th to arrive in Block Island and begin survey work. Mr. LeBlanc confirmed that he will coordinate details with Ex. Director Murray (NEMP) to honor all conditions in the letter dated 2-4-21 sent to him from the State Pilotage Commission. He also advised that if there are any problems with the GS causing any damage to fishing gear, he will have a report for the Commission after the work is completed and the ship departs.

3. Updates from the RI State Pilot Board.:

- a. Pilot Ladder App: Capt. Walker stated that the Pilots had their winter meeting with the APA. A topic of discussion was "pilot ladder safety" and there is now a pilot ladder link for your desktop. Capt. Walker explained that if the pilot sees a non-compliant ladder, the pilot will take a picture of it which generates an email. Text can be added to the email, and then that can be sent to all reporting parties in one email (commission, USCG, NEMP). Capt. Walker sent the link to the Chair to send to commissioners.
- b. Helmets: Another topic at the APA meeting was helmets. Capt. Walker said pilots are starting to wear helmets which the NEMP are considering. He said it will be a personal choice and hopefully all pilots will choose to wear one.
- c. Canadian Cruise Ships: Capt. Walker advised there is a ban on Canadian cruise ships through February 2022 which will have a definite impact on cruise-ship dependent states.

4. Updates from the Northeast Marine Pilots Assn:

Ex. Director Chris Murray advised that he spoke with their contact person for the COVID vaccine and the pilots are on the top of the priority list. He said they also discussed the phone line and radio tower located at State Police barracks in Portsmouth.

5. Apprentice Pilots:

Chair McVay said the State Pilot Board examined Capt.'s. Sanford, Jr. and Stevens on Friday, February 26th for their Block Island Sound probationary license. McVay said he was very pleased to report that both pilots passed their exam and did very well. The Chair then entertained a **MOTION** to approve their Probationary license. Vice Chair Fritz made the **MOTION** to grant each pilot his probationary Block Island Sound license. Member Jason McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. *Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Both pilots were sworn in as Chair McVay presided over the oath. The Chair said the pilots will get a (paper) license that the pilots and commissioners sign. He then explained to Capt.'s Stevens and Sanford, Jr. that in order for them to advance and get approved for their Probationary Narragansett Bay license, they must complete all required training. If for any reason they cannot complete the training, they will have to justify to the commission why the requirements were not met.

Commissioners and Capt. Walker then discussed the possibility of the probationary pilots contributing to working the survey vessel (Global Symphony) in Block Island . The chair advised that as long as they have all necessary training and certification, they can contribute to piloting the survey vessel. Executive Director Murray will contact the Commission Chair with that information.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

State-owned Pilot Communication's Equipment:

Commissioners discussed the inoperative communication's tower at the state police barracks in Portsmouth and how they will assist in getting it up and running so the pilots can gain access to the equipment.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, The Chair entertained a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:25a.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
	September 2
April 1	October 7
May 6	November 4
June 3	December 2

*Meeting dates are subject to change.

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