



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

held on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 9:30am

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Mr. Jason McNamee, Deputy Director, RIDEM
Capt. Vincent Kirby, RISP
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

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, September 1, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. After a roll call was taken, Vice Chairman Fritz confirmed that a quorum was present.

I. JULY 14, 2022 MEETING MINUTES VOTE

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the July 14, 2022 meeting. Lt. Schipritt **MOVED** to accept the minutes as presented. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *4-0 to approve*.

II. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

Ms. Dalton stated that the Commission had received requests for upgrade from probationary pilots Theodore Sanford and Matthew Stevens along with their respective trip logs. She also shared a copy of the Annual Report from the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York.

III. COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY THE COMMISSION

There was no communication sent by the Commission.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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

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

b. Pilot President/NEMP Executive Director

Capt. Kirby stated that the information shared with the Commission on the spreadsheets submitted

by Sanford and Stevens only show what is being requested by the Commission and is not necessarily indicative of what they have done and is approximately 20% of their total work. The Vice Chairman stated that he was disappointed that the probationary pilots had only one Davisville trip documented on their requests. Capt. Astles commented that there is some ambiguity between the Regulations and the Commission's guidelines for the probationary pilots. Capt. Kirby stated there was some confusion between the probationary pilots as to whether the guidelines supersede the Regulations or not. He further stated that the guidelines should be cleaned up to mesh with the Regulations. Vice Chairman Fritz stated that believes Davisville will become busier with the staging of the wind farm equipment there. Capt. Kirby stated that the intent was that probationary pilots would have one year to become full pilots and Vice Chairman Fritz stated that part of that intent was so that the probationary pilots are exposed to all types of weather during the course of their probationary status.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Move probationary pilots Sanford and Stevens to Step 3 (34' draft/no max grt)

The Commission reviewed the requests for upgrade from probationary pilots Stevens and Sanford along with their trip logs.

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to advance probationary pilot Theodore Sanford to Step 3. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to advance**.

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to advance probationary pilot Matthew Stevens to Step 3. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to advance**.

b. Discussion on proposed NOAA Right Whale regulations

Capt. Kirby had sent an email to the Commission on August 10, 2022 regarding a proposed NOAA amendment to the North American Right Whale speed restriction regulations. The proposed rule would increase the coverage areas in which all vessels 35 feet and greater are restricted to 10 knots or less. This would apply to all ships in RI ports and the pilot boats servicing the ships. He stated that this this would have a direct impact on pilotage operations in Rhode Island waters. Capt. Kirby further explained that these restrictions would possibly increase pilot fatigue because the trips would be longer. Capt. Astles stated that the open comment period was open until September 29, 2022 and continued to state the issues the pilots may face if this were go into effect. Capt. Murray stated that his concerns were for the pilots and their safety. He further stated that if the boarding areas were made exempt from the new rules that only 1/10 of 1% of the restricted area would be affected. Capt. Astles stated that he would like to see the open comment period extended at least so more research can be done about the possible impact and safety issues and would like to see the Commission support that request. Ms. Hoefsmit confirmed that the Commission could make that request.

Mr. McNamee **MOVED** to submit comments on the proposed regulations on behalf of the Commission. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to submit comments**.

c. Proposal to add additional Pilot Advisory Board member

Vice Chairman Fritz gave a brief history of the Commission's Pilot Advisory Board and its membership. The current membership is Rick Comeau, James Fitzpatrick, Mike Campbell and Joe Murphy and he provides the oversight. He further stated that he would like to add a new member to this Board, Capt. Howard McVay.

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to add an additional member, Capt. Howard McVay, to the Pilot Advisory Board. Mr. McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. During discussion, Mr. Kirby stated that he was unaware of this discussion and vote until today and he would like for the Pilots Association to have more time for discussion. He further stated that there needed to be some clarification about the roles of this various bodies such as the Pilot Advisory Board, Training Panel, etc. Ms. Hoefsmit suggested tabling this Motion and Capt. Kirby put together information about the various entities to report back to the Commission. Mr. McNamee **MOVED** to table this **MOTION** for further discussion. Lt. Schipritt **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to table**.

d. Election of new Commission Chairman

Vice Chairman Fritz read a statement concerning the election of the Commission's Chairperson and rescinded his vote. Lt. Schipritt nominated Mr. McNamee and Mr. McNamee accepted the nomination.

Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to elect Mr. Jason McNamee as Chairman of the Commission. Lt. Schipritt **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **3-0** with the Vice Chairman rescinding his vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Fritz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:31 a.m. Capt. Kirby **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS 4-0 to adjourn**.

2022 Meeting Schedule:

October 6
November 3
December 1

*Meeting dates are subject to change.

/md