

APPROVED MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, September 7, 2017
Held at 235 Promenade Street, Room 250
Providence, RI 02908

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair
Capt. Peter Fritz, Member
Larry Mouradjian, Member

EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE:

Frank Floor, Member

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Atty. Gary Powers, Counsel to the RIPC
Jo-Anne Scorpio, Secretary to the RISPC
Capt. Adam Sanford, NEMP
Capt. Paul Costabile, Ex. Dir., NEMP
Capt. Vince Kirby, RI State Pilot Board
Robert Blackburn, Port Director, Quonset Dev. Corp.

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A regular monthly meeting of the RI Pilot Commission was called to order at approximately 9:30am on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at the headquarters of the RIDEM, Div. Law Enforcement. A quorum was present; the June 1, 2017 minutes were reviewed and voted to approve. Member Mouradian made the motion to accept the proposed minutes; Member Fritz seconded the motion. [Voted 2-0 in favor.](#)

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **Commission Meeting Changes:** The October 5th monthly meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 11, 2017.
- 2) **Regulations Update:** Atty. Powers submitted a copy of the final draft of the recodified regulations for the Chair's signature (voted to approved by the Commissioners at the June 2017 meeting). Atty. Powers will proceed with the filing process. The USCG "Requirements for Uninspected Passenger Vessels" (Appendix 2) was removed from the regulations and will be posted on the Pilot Commission informational page instead.
- 3) **State Pilot Board Updates:**
Dale Harper: The Chair advised that Capt. Harper is making progress and should be ready for examination in October/November.
- 4) **Communications Received:** The Commission received a copy of the NTSB 2016 "Safer Sean digest, Lessons Learned from Marine Accident Investigations". Commissioner Mouradjian asked the Commission secretary to inquire to have the publication uploaded on the Commission's webpage.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 5) Adam Sanford's Upgrade: Commissioner Fritz stated that he wanted to see Capt. Sanford pilot more trips in Narragansett Bay before the commission votes on his upgrade. The Commissioners then discussed with the Board Member Vince Kirby clarification on how the Board evaluates a pilot's performance to recommend them for an upgrade. Pilot Board Member Vince Kirby asserted that Capt. Sanford has met all his obligations and he would like to see the Commission vote on his upgrade at this meeting. The Commissioners decided that it was in the best interest to vote when all commissioners are present. Member Capt. Fritz MOVED for Commissioners to continue discussing Capt. Sanford's upgrade at the October meeting before casting a vote. Commissioner Mouradjian commented that there were two different issues to be discussed. 1) Capt. Sanford's full-branch license approval, and 2) should there be a minimum threshold of trips that Board members and Commission members are satisfied with that demonstrates a pilot's performance to advance forward. He also stated that postponing Capt. Sanford's license approval is preventing him from much needed piloting assignments.

Atty. Powers commented that Commissioner Fritz's MOTION should be carried through. Chair McVay Called for Capt. Fritz's MOTION to be seconded. The MOTION was not seconded. *Voted 1-0, MOTION failed.*

Commissioner Mouradjian then introduced a MOTION to consider Capt. Sanford for a Full Branch License and then discuss at the next meeting, clarification of acceptable number of trips a pilot must conduct to establish an acceptable threshold to advance forward. The MOTION was not seconded. *Voted 1-0, MOTION failed.*

As a result of the two motions failing, Capt. Sanford's upgrade will be directly voted on with no discussion before casting a vote at the October meeting.

- 6) Autonomous Shipping: The Chair advised that the "man less" ships will probably be regulated in about ten years and when there's an incident or a grounding, who will be responsible? The Commissioners and Pilots continued to discussed autonomous shipping.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mourdjian made a MOTION for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Fritz seconded the MOTION. *Voted 1-1 in favor.* The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

V. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Next schedule meeting will be Thursday, October 11, 2017, beginning at approximately 9:30 am at the Dept. of Environmental Management, Division of Law Enforcement, 235 Promenade Street, Rm. 250, Providence, RI 02908.