



RI STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION

235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Phone: 401-222-2985
Fax: 401-222-6823

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 9:30am
Held through ZOOM Videoconferencing

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair
Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair
Dean Hoxsie, RIDEM, Chief of Div. of Law Enf., Member
Jason McNamee, RIDEM, Dep. Director, Member

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NEMP Assoc.
Ed LeBlanc, Marine Affairs Mgr., Orsted
Atty. LoBianco, RIDEM, Legal Counsel in the absence of
Atty. Christina Hoefsmit
JoAnne Scorpio, RIDEM, Commission Secretary
Paul Costabile, Ex. Director NE Marine Pilots
James Woodyard, Project Mgr. Orsted Revolution
Rick Comeau, Director, US Maritime Resource Ctr.
Clint Walker, NE Marine Pilots, RI State Pilot Board
Steven Smaracko, Moran Shipping

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the RI State Pilotage Commission conducted through Zoom videoconferencing was called to order at approximately 9:30am on Thursday, September 3, 2020. After a roll call was taken, the Chair confirmed a quorum was present. Commissioners then reviewed the May 7, 2020 draft meeting minutes. Commissioner Hoxie **MOVED** to approve the draft minutes. Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, 4-0 to approve.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **Annual Public Hearing:** Chair McVay advised that the “Annual Public Hearing will take place October 1, 2020. He also advised that there was a letter from the RI State Pilot Board requesting the Commission to approve two “Apprentice Licenses” for (2) pilots-in-training for Block Island Sound.
- 2) **Proposed Route for Orsted Windfarm:** Discussions on the survey operations for the offshore wind project in Narragansett Bay took place. The Chair stated that he received a letter from Ed LeBlanc, Marine Affairs (Orsted) requesting authorization to conduct survey operations in RI waters. The purpose of discussions was to coordinate operations between the Commission, NEMP, and the survey vessel for work to be conducted in waters where a pilot will not be boarding the vessel. Mr. LeBlanc advised that the survey work for 2020 will be outside of Narragansett Bay*; and in 2021, (proposed) operations

* Maps of proposed route have been filed with Commission files.

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

will take place in the West Passage. Mr. LeBlanc went on to say that the vessel they plan to use is a Dutch-flagged vessel, the “Deep Helder”, and that the Northeast Marine Pilots are familiar with that ship. Chair McVay suggested that a pilot board the ship and inspect it when it arrives. He then entertained a motion to approve that a letter be drafted to Orsted advising them of restrictions/conditions during survey operations in RI state pilotaged waters with the Deep Helder. Commissioner Hoxsie made the **MOTION** to approve that the Commission draft the letter; Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. *Vote was unanimous 4-0 in favor.*

Commission Members and Orsted representatives continued discussions for 2020 operations.

The Chair advised that piloting in the west passage (to take place in 2021) will be more challenging as the waters are shallower. He stated that the pilots are not licensed for those waters and does not anticipate approving survey vessels to operate in that area without a pilot. McVay said the pilots will have to be trained and licensed before operations begin in the west passage. He then entertained that a vote be taken to approve limited/emergency licensing for the west passage. Vice Chair Fritz made the **MOTION** to approve a restricted emergency license for full branch licensed pilots for limited tonnage/draft vessels conducting survey work in the west passage in Narragansett Bay. Commissioner McNamee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. *Vote was unanimous 4-0 in favor.*

- 3) **Training Update:** Vice Chair Fritz stated that the Pilots were given the annual “Rules of the Road” refresher and have acknowledged the training.
- 4) **NEMP Update:** Capt. Walker, NEMP (RI State Pilot Board) gave an update on the two pilots-in-training. He advised that they both currently hold federal licenses and have been progressing well. Commissioners discussed that when the two pilots are approved by the Commission and are granted “apprentice pilot” status, that they be trained and permitted a restricted/emergency license for the west passage to help contribute with piloting duties during survey operations, as it may become necessary to increase the workforce.
- 5) **US Marine Resource Ctr:** Rick Comeau (US Maritime Resource Ctr.) advised classes for August and September have been cancelled, however, the USMRC will be able to host classes for five or six pilots at a time. To date there are no on-line courses available.
- 6) **Capt. Harper Status:** The Chair reminded the Commissioners that Capt. Harper’s license has been extended through December 2020 and he is required to complete two “High Wind” dockings. Capt. Harper has not completed those assignments because of CDC restrictions. McVay said the Commissioners may have to extend Capt. Harper’s license if he cannot meet the deadline.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) New Commission Members: Jason McNamee, RIDEM, Deputy Director, Natural Resources has accepted his position as Commissioner for the RI State Pilotage Commission.
- 2) Director Coit has officially selected Dean Hoxie, RIDEM, Chief of Law Enforcement as her designee for the RI State Pilotage Commission.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m. Vice Chair Fritz **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting. Member Dean Hoxsie **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. 4-0 to adjourn.

Remainder of 2020 Commission Meeting Schedule:

Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2020	
	Th, Oct 1
	Th, Nov 5
	Th, Dec 3

*Meeting dates are subject change.

/js