

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 7, 2020  
Held through ZOOM Videoconferencing

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Capt. E. Howard McVay, Chair  Capt. Peter Fritz, Vice Chair  Dean Hoxsie, RIDEM, Chief of Div. of Law Enf., Member</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Paul Costabile, Ex. Director, NEMP Assoc.  Ed LeBlanc, Marine Affairs, Orsted  Atty. Hoefsmit, RIDEM, Commission’s Legal Counsel  JoAnne Scorpio, RIDEM, Commission Secretary</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Frank Floor, RIDEM, Chief, Parks and Rec., Member</p>	

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, May 7, 2020. After a roll call was taken, the Chair confirmed a quorum was present. Commissioners then reviewed the March 5, 2020 draft meeting minutes. Commissioner Hoxsie **MOVED** to approve the draft minutes. Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS, 3-0 to approve.**

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **Proposed Route for Orsted Windfarm:** Chair McVay stated that he sent the Commission charts depicting proposed cable routes in RI waters. Ed LeBlanc, Orsted, advised of Revolution Wind Project’s proposal for offshore cable installation. He stated that an area of concern that he approached the pilot commission for was the cable route through the center of the west passage that ties into the beach west of Quonset. He also assured that the route will not be going anywhere near the Davisville channel. Orsted is working with DEM and CRMC on the cable route and both agencies are in agreement. The USCG, Navy, and US Naval Undersea Warfare Ctr. (Newport div.) have all been advised of the project and have not expressed any opposition.

Chair McVay stated that if there were any foreign -flagged vessels installing the cable, the pilots would not be licensed for those routes. He asked Mr. LeBlanc to notify the Commission advising them of any foreign-flagged vessels so the pilots can address any licensing concerns. The Chair also said that as far as the Commission was concerned, he didn’t have any issues with the proposed routes and didn’t think it would have any negative impact on commercial operations.

- 2) **Commission Meeting Schedule:** Commissioner Hoxsie suggested that future meetings should be held through Zoom videoconferencing until further notice. In the event of any emergency, Sr. Legal Counsel Hoefsmit commented that the commission would follow procedure and that all meetings will be recorded.

- 3) **Training Update:** Vice Chair Fritz advised that a hard copy of the annual “Rules of the Road” refresher will be sent out to all Northeast Marine Pilots.
- 4) **Review of Pilot Certificates and Expiration Dates:** Commission Secretary advised that pilot licenses will be printed as soon as feasibly possible. Under current circumstances (COVID-19 executive orders) and scheduling conflicts, it may take longer than originally anticipated.

Chair McVay said that paper licenses can be signed at a meeting when all commissioners are physically present.

- 5) **Capt. Harper Probationary License Status:** The Chair stated that Capt. Harper requested an extension on his probationary license as he has not been able to ride under supervision and finish the last two trips the Commission requested (due to COVID-19 restrictions). The Chair then entertained that a **MOTION** be made to extend Capt. Harper’s probationary license another six (6) months so he can continue to pilot in and out of Providence. Commissioner Hoxsie Made the **MOTION** to extend Capt. Harper’s license to the end of the year, December 31, 2020. Vice Chair Fritz **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNAMIOUS**. 3-0 in favor.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Regulation Update:** Atty. Hoefsmit advised that the public comment period for the amendments to the regulations ended (5-6-20). She stated that since no comments were received, the next step is to send the regulations to ORR. After the ORR approves the revisions and are signed off, they will get published with Secretary of State and go into effect 20 days thereafter.
- 2) **Public Hearing Update:** Chair McVay advised that the public hearing will be postponed this year. Atty. Hoefsmit added that the Commission may have to schedule the public hearing through videoconferencing.
- 3) **Pilot Safety:** Capt. Costabile (NEMP) stated that pilots were not boarding any foreign vessels coming into port listed by USCG as high risk unless there were no reported illnesses after 14 days. Pilots have since received PPE’s and are now able to board ships that are cleared by USCG. There have not been any delays, however, traffic has slowed down considerably and is expected to slow down even more. Capt. Costabile added that back in March, riders (trainees) were not allowed on pilot boats. Since the state has begun to lift restrictions, one rider at a time has been allowed but with limitations. Everyone must now wear masks and the boats are cleaned and sanitized after each trip. All pilots are required to sanitize their hands coming and leaving a pilot boat. To date there have been no reported illnesses. Soon two riders will be allowed on the boats as long as everyone is wearing PPE’s. There is only one person at a time allowed in the office each day. Instructions have been sent to all shipping agents for inbound ships advising them that the area where the pilot will be must be cleaned and sanitized before the pilot enters

that area. Only essential crew can be on the bridge and only one escort can take the pilot from the ladder to the bridge.

- 4) **Pilot Training:** Capt. Costabile stated that there are currently two trainees; however, that has come to a halt. They will both be back to riding next week. Because the candidates are not in the RI program yet, they would not be ready for (Block Island Sound) testing in the next foreseeable few months. He also added that one of the trainees has a federal Block Island Sound license and that he may be ready for testing sooner. Capt. Costabile also advised he will discuss Block Island Sound Apprenticeship at the next Annual Meeting.
- 5) **Sprague Terminal Incident Update:** Capt. Costabile advised that the necessary lighting requested by the pilots has not been installed at the pier. Despite the lack of improvements, the pilots have taken positive steps towards their safety; and depending on the beam of the ship there are now restrictions.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m. Vice Chair Fritz made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Member Dean Hoxsie **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**. 3-0 to adjourn.

#### Remainder of 2020 Commission Meeting Schedule:

Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2020	
	Th, Jul 2
	Th, Aug 6
	Th, Sep 3
	Th, Oct 1
	Th, Nov 5
Th, Jun 4	Th, Dec 3

\*Meeting dates are subject change.

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