

Maine Pilotage Commission



Video Conference
July 26, 2021

Minutes of Meeting

In compliance with MRSA 38 § 85 and in fulfillment of the Commission's duties addressed in MRSA 38 § 90, a meeting of the Maine Pilotage Commission was held on July 26, 2021.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this meeting was held virtually by video conference and was not conducted in person.

Administration:

Maine Pilotage Commission Members constituting a quorum were:

Captain Charles Weeks	– Chair of the Commission
Captain David Gelinas	– Pilot Member
Captain Gerald Morrison	– Pilot Member
Mr. Tom Dobbins	– Maritime Industry Member
Captain John Worth	– Public Member
Mr. Brian Downey	– Pilotage Commission Administrator

Maine Pilotage Commission Interested Parties present were:

Captain Adam Philbrook	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Captain Skip Strong	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Captain Mark Klopp	– Kennebec River Pilot
Susan Klopp	– Portland Pilots Inc.
Captain Michael Ames	– Master Mariner
Amy Powers	– CLIA

Maine DOT staff present were:

Mr. Matthew Burns	– Maine DOT
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Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Captain Weeks opened the meeting at 1010 and acknowledged a quorum.

Amendments and Carry-Over Items: There were no carry over items from the March 11, 2021 meeting. Hearing no objections, it was thus:

RESOLVED to accept the agenda.

Agenda Item 2 – Review/Approval of the Minutes from March 11, 2021

After considering the content of the March 11, 2021 minutes, Captain Worth motioned to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting. Mr. Dobbins seconded the motion. Hearing no objections or abstentions it was thus:

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2021 Maine Pilotage Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Financial

Mr. Downey reported on *Ports and Marine Accounts* which has a current balance of \$6,184.50. License income and insurance expenses flow through this account. There were no receipts or disbursements since the last Commission meeting. The *Pilotage Training Account* currently has a balance of \$94,152.72. There were no receipts or disbursements since the last Commission meeting.

Ports & Marine Account Cash			
<i>Cash Balance</i>			
31 April 2021	Beginning Cash Balance		\$6,184.50
<i>Incoming Cash Receipts</i>			
	Cash Receipts	N/A	\$00.00
	Total Cash		\$6,184.50
<i>Cash Disbursements</i>			
	Operating Expenses	Newspaper advertising	\$00.00
30 June 2021	Ending Cash Balance		\$6,184.50
Pilotage Training Fund			
<i>Pilotage Training Fund Balance</i>			
31 April 2021	Beginning Pilotage Training Fund Balance		\$94,152.72
<i>Incoming Training Fund Receipts</i>			
	DEP Receipt		\$00,000
	Total Fund		\$94,152.72
<i>Training Disbursements</i>			
	Training Reimbursement	BRM-P (MITAGS)	(\$00,000)
30 June 2021	Current Pilotage Training Fund Balance		\$94,152.72

Agenda Item 4 – Penobscot Bay Apprentice Update

Captain Greg Smith continues to pursue his state pilotage license training regimen during his vacation time from his primary employment with Crowley Maritime where he currently serves as Chief Mate on tank vessels. He has obtained Federal pilotage for Penobscot Bay and Frenchman Bay.

Penobscot Bay and River Pilots do not anticipate any additional apprentices in the near future.

Agenda Item 5 – COVID – 19 Impacts and Forecast (Captain Gelinias)

The Penobscot Bay and River Pilots sent a February 12, 2021 letter explaining the pilotage impacts of the pandemic to Governor Mills. The letter highlighted the dire straits that the COVID-19 virus and subsequent marine transportation slow-down has placed on Maine pilots. The letter discussed that although federal assistance (e.g., *Payroll Protection Program* and *CARES Act*) has helped, more needed to be done at the state level to help support pilots through this difficult time, which was exacerbated by the continued suspension of cruise ships from the Summer economy.

It was further discussed that the CERTS application period closed last week. Applicants are now waiting to hear if there is funding. The program was described as very restrictive on debt relief and salary. Penobscot Bay and River Pilots applied for relief through the program but have not received any word on CERTS applications.

MTS Emergency Relief Act was also described as a complex process with many conditions for relief.

Agenda Item 6 – Training Plan Update (Brian Downey)

Mr. Downey briefed the Commission regarding pilot training. Despite the global pandemic, the Maine Pilotage Commission succeeded in meeting most of its training goals as detailed in the current three year training plan, with the exception of ECDIS for Pilots training which has been deferred and manned model training which were both deferred to protect against exposure to COVID-19.

- BRM for Pilots was accomplished for nine pilots through 2 separate sessions. The course was offered virtually through MITAGS and received strong praise from all who attended. It was also determined that the course, in its current format is appropriate for future virtual offerings, which will help to reduce travel time and course costs. BRM for Pilots is recommended to be refreshed every five years by the American Pilots' Association.

- Mr. Dobbins attended a Marine Casualty investigator course in June offered by ABS Academy, The course was offered over two days and covered root cause analysis and emphasized on investigating the chain of events leading to casualties.
- ECDIS for pilots will be rescheduled with Maine Maritime Academy Continuing Education Department at their Bucksport facility with a target offering in October of 2021. ECDIS for Pilots is recommended to be refreshed every five years by the American Pilots' Association.

Agenda Item 7 – Commission/License Status

Mr. Downey reviewed the status of Pilotage Commission appointments. He reported that all of the Commission appointments have expired except for Captain Weeks which will expire later in 2021 and Captain Philbrook whose initial application remains pending. All expired and pending applications for re-appointment were properly submitted (well in advance of their respective expirations) to the Office of Boards and Commission and all remain pending.

Commission Renewals

- Mr. Dobbins (October 7, 2019)
- Captain Worth (October 7, 2019)
- Captain Gelinis (October 7, 2019)
- Captain Moody (August 21, 2020)
- Captain Morrison (August 21, 2020)
- Captain Weeks (October 21, 2021)
- Captain Philbrook (new pending)

Mr. Downey also reviewed recent and upcoming license renewals/actions which are as follows:

- Captain Klopp is due for renewal in November 2021.

Added Item – Other/Miscellaneous

Captain Weeks announced that he will retire and vacate his position on the Maine Pilotage Commission at the conclusion of his current Commission appointment. Mr. Downey read a letter of appreciation from Maine COT Commissioner Bruce Van Note, and thanked Captain Weeks for his decades of selfless dedication and commitment to the State of Maine and the Maine Pilotage Program.

Thank you Captain Weeks!

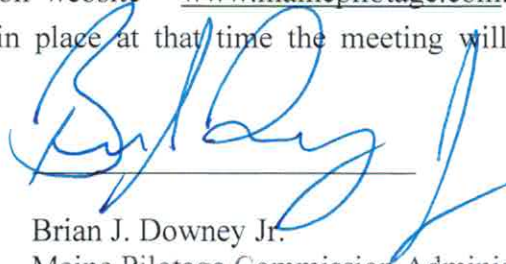
Agenda Item 8 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair of the Commission, Captain Charles Weeks at 1150.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held November 17, 2021 at Maine DOT at 1000 in Room 227 and posted on the Maine Pilotage Commission website - www.maine-pilotage.com. If the state's social distancing requirements are still in place at that time the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.com.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian J. Downey Jr.
Maine Pilotage Commission Administrator



Captain Charles Weeks
Chair, Maine Pilotage Commission