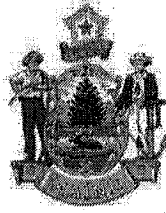


# Maine Pilotage Commission



Video Conference Meeting  
November 18, 2020

## 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 November 18, 2020 in Augusta, ME.

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 Gelinis	– Pilot Member
Mr. Tom Dobbins	– Maritime Industry Member
Captain Shawn Moody	– Maritime Industry Member
Captain John Worth	– Public Member
Mr. Matt Burns	– Interim Pilotage Commission Administrator/MaineDOT

Maine Pilotage Commission Interested Parties present were:

Captain Skip Strong	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Captain Michael Ames	– Master Mariner
Captain Robert Peacock	– Quoddy Pilots
Captain Nicholas Sabbath	– Master Mariner

### Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Captain Weeks opened the meeting at 1030 and acknowledged a quorum.

*Amendments and Carry-Over Items:* There were no carry over items from the June 24, 2020 meeting.

## **Agenda Item 2 – Review/Approval of the Minutes from June 24, 2020**

After considering the content of the June 24, 2020 minutes, Mr. Dobbins motioned to accept the minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting. Captain Worth seconded the motion. Hearing no objections or abstentions it was thus:

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Maine Pilotage Commission meeting.

## **Agenda Item 3 – Emergency Rate Adjustment**

Mr. Burns introduced the emergency rate adjustment proposal from Captain Gelinias with the Penobscot Bay & River Pilots. Captain Gelinias addressed the October 1<sup>st</sup> memo from the Penobscot Bay & River Pilots and detailed the elements of the proposal. Also presented to the Commission was a spreadsheet that was made to show a comparison of rates to other regions/routes in the state.

Despite the loss of passenger vessel traffic due to the COVID-19 pandemic, large sized yacht activity has increased in coastal Maine waters. Essentially, the proposal aims to level the rate structure so it is more even and consistent with the region's most active routes in Searsport, Bucksport and Bar Harbor. Captain Gelinias explained that visiting yachts have a tendency to engage in sightseeing or other activities that would require the pilot to remain onboard while the vessel is underway, so the hourly rate mentioned in the proposal compensates for the longer periods of time the pilots remain onboard cruising yachts.

The following is a summary of the proposal:

- For all regions, an increase in the Training, Technology & Capital Construction fee (TT&CC fee) to \$200 from current \$125 to be applied on the inbound trip only.
- Rates for Penobscot Bay and River ports (excepting Camden and Rockland) would remain as currently approved, except for the increased TT & CC fee.
- Bar Harbor rates would remain as currently approved, except for the increased TT & CC fee.
- Separate Somes Sound/Eastern Way and Blue Hill Bay from Bar Harbor on the rate schedule.
- Separate Boothbay Harbor from the Kennebec River and Sheepscot River on the rate schedule.
- Eliminate the boat hire fee for Boothbay Harbor.
- Consolidate Boothbay Harbor, Blue Hill Bay, and Eastern Way/Somes Sound and Camden/Rockland into a common rate.
- Establish a unified rate for the above areas:
  1. Minimum fee for the first 100 Pilot Units: \$1,800.
  2. Pilot Unit fee above 100: as per published rate for Searsport.
  3. For shifting within the above-named Pilotage Zones: 50% of the inbound rate.

- Establish an hourly rate of \$500/hr. for “pilot aboard while not engaged in expedient transit of a route.”

Mr. Dobbins motioned to accept the rate proposal. Captain Worth seconded the motion. Hearing no objections or abstentions it was thus:

RESOLVED to accept the rate proposal from the Penobscot Bay & River Pilots pending the soon to be scheduled public meeting.

Mr. Burns explained that due to the affirmative Commission vote, he would engage MaineDOT legal to move forward with the public process and rate meeting.

**Agenda Item 4 – Financial**

Mr. Burns reported on *Ports and Marine Accounts* which has a current balance of \$6,333.50. License income and insurance expenses flow through this account. The *Pilotage Training Account* currently has a balance of \$57,282.68. Mr. Burns offered that there had been no expenditures nor receipts to either the Ports and Marine Account nor the Pilotage Training Fund since the last meeting on June 24, 2020.

Ports & Marine Account Cash			
Cash Balance			
30 Sept 2020	Beginning Cash Balance		\$6,288.52
Incoming Cash Receipts			
	Cash Receipts	License Ren./Rte. End.	\$475.00
	Total Cash		\$6,763.52
Cash Disbursements			
	Operating Expenses	Meeting Notice Fee	\$430.02
30 Sept 2020	Ending Cash Balance		\$6,333.50
Pilotage Training Fund			
Pilotage Training Fund Balance			
30 Sept 2020	Beginning Pilotage Training Fund Balance		\$57,282.68
Incoming Training Fund Receipts			
	Total Fund		\$57,282.68
Training Disbursements			
		N/A	(\$00)
30 Sept 2020	Current Pilotage Training Fund Balance		\$57,282.68

**Agenda Item 5 – Training Plan Update**

Mr. Burns explained that the scheduled ECDIS refresher course offered at MMA has been cancelled due to concerns regarding COVID-19. All of the scheduled attendees were in agreement with the decision and it was determined that the course would be rescheduled for the late spring/summer of 2021.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Sandy Hook Fatality**

Mr. Burns briefly discussed the passing of Captain Tim Murray in the second fatality involving a member from the Sandy Hook Pilots organization during a vessel boarding operation.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Boothbay Harbor Pilot Training Update**

Captain Gelinas explained that training for Boothbay Harbor was ongoing with all of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots expected to be trained EOY 2021 or earlier.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Captain Greg Smith Apprenticeship Discussion**

Captain Gelinas explained to the Commission that Captain Greg Smith had begun his apprenticeship with the Penobscot Bay & River Pilots.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Offshore Wind Update**

Mr. Burns explained to the Commission that there would be an upcoming press release from the Governor's Energy Office regarding floating offshore wind research. MaineDOT is also working on an infrastructure study that was expected to be completed by EOY 2020.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Commission/License Status**

Mr. Burns reviewed the status of Pilotage Commission appointments and reported that the Commission applications for Mr. Dobbins, Captain Worth and Captain Gelinas remain with the Office of Boards and Commissions and are pending. Commission renewals for Captain Moody and Captain Morrison both expire on August 21, 2021, which was a correction provided by the Office of Boards and Commissions that had not been previously reported. A renewal package from Captain Ames was received by MaineDOT but accidentally sent to the Maine Port Authority with some of their mail. That has since been corrected and will be processed accordingly.

- Captain Klopp (Resigned)
- Mr. Dobbins (October 7, 2019)
- Captain Worth (October 7, 2019)
- Captain Gelinas (October 7, 2019)
- Captain Moody (August 21, 2021)
- Captain Morrison (August 21, 2021)

Mr. Burns also reviewed upcoming license renewals/actions which are as follows:

- Captain Ames (June 10, 2020)
- Captain Peacock (November 10, 2020)

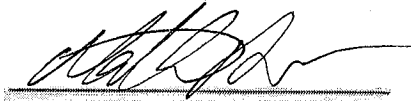
### **Agenda Item 11 – Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair of the Commission, Captain Charles Weeks at 1200.

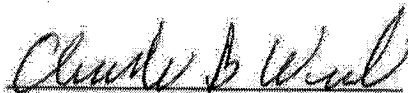
**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held March 11, 2020 at Maine DOT at 1030 in Room 227 and posted on the Maine Pilotage Commission website - [www.maine-pilotage.com](http://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:



Matthew B. Burns  
Interim Maine Pilotage Commission Administrator



Captain Charles Weeks  
Chair, Maine Pilotage Commission