

Maine Pilotage Commission



MaineDOT ~ Room 216 Conference Room
May 23, 2019

Minutes of Pilotage Rate Meeting

In considering a pilot rate adjustment proposed by the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association on March 29, 2019 as well as Quoddy Pilots on April 24, 2019 a public Pilotage Rate Meeting was convened to publicly discuss the proposed adjustments and hear public comments.

The Maine Pilotage Commission members comprising a quorum were:

Captain Shawn Moody	– Maritime Industry Member
Captain John Worth	– Public Member (telephonically)
Mr. Tom Dobbins	– Public Member
Captain David Gelinis	– Pilot Member
Brian Downey	– Pilotage Commission Administrator (Public Meeting Facilitator)

Interested Parties present were:

Mr. Mark MacDonald	– Bay Ferries
Ms. Amy Powers	– Maine Cruise Pro
Captain Robert Peacock	– Quoddy Pilots
Captain Skip Strong	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot

Maine DOT staff present were:

Ms. Toni Kemmerle	– Maine DOT
Mr. Brian Willing	– Maine DOT
Mr. Matt Burns	– Maine DOT

Background and Administration

Mr. Downey opened the meeting at 1300 and acknowledged a quorum. Mr. Downey reviewed the legal statute requiring the Commission to establish pilotage rates. He further reviewed the process which the Commission will follow to effect any new rates, if approved.

Striving for transparency, in addition to internal communication to the Commission members and licensed pilots, the Maine Pilotage Commission publicly announced this meeting during the Port Safety Forum on April 17, 2019. The Maine Pilotage Commission also announced this meeting through the MaineDOT Weekly Digest Bulletin System. The Commission also published Public Meeting Notices for this Public Meeting in the Kennebec Journal, Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, and Lewiston Sun Journal. The Commission also directly mailed notices of the meeting to known pilotage users and those who may be interested in a pilotage rate discussion.

The meeting was a hybrid in that it was a normal Pilotage Commission meeting but only discussed proposed pilotage rates. The meeting did not take on any other Commission business. The meeting was recorded by a stenographer.

This meeting followed an April 26, 2019 Workshop comprised of a portion of the Maine Pilotage Commission. The workshop was convened to analyze the proposals for parity with competing ports and comparison against current COLA rates. The Workshop Minutes are captured in a separate document.

Pilot Rate Discussions and Public Comment

In order to organize discussion and deliberation of the two pilotage organizations' proposals, they were anecdotally split into four parts – namely:

Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Proposal

- Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Rate adjustment discussion;
- New Ferry Rate discussion.

Eastport Pilots Proposal

- Eastport Rate adjustment discussion;
- Eastport Pilot boat Fee adjustment discussion;

Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's Proposal

Captain Strong spoke in favor of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's full proposal to increase rates by approximately 2% over the next three years. He also supported the new ferry rate.

Similarly, Mr. MacDonald spoke in favor of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's proposal to create a new ferry rate.

Mr. Downey submitted an e-mail that he received from a member of the public as an exhibit which was opposed to the new ferry rate.

There were no other public comments in favor or in opposition of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's proposal.

Collective Eastport Pilots' Proposal

Captain Peacock spoke in favor of the collective Eastport Pilots' full proposal to increase rates by approximately 5%. He also supported the pilot boat rate increase.

There were no other public comments in favor or in opposition of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association's proposal.

Written Comments

Mr. Downey explained that written comments may be received for consideration of either of the proposals but must be received by June 23, 2019. Written comments should be mailed to:

Brian J. Downey
Administrator
Maine Pilotage Commission
16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine, 04333-0016

Final Vote

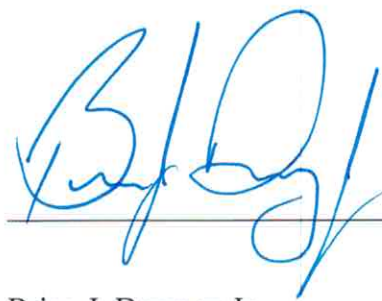
A final vote on the proposed rate adjustments is anticipated to be made by the full Maine Pilotage Commission on June 24, 2019. If approved, the proposed rates will become effective January 1, 2020, except the proposed ferry rate (if approved) could be effective immediately upon vote.

Next Meeting

A final vote at the Maine Pilotage Commission meeting on June 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Maine DOT Building:

Room 216
24 Child Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Respectfully submitted:



Brian J. Downey Jr.
Maine Pilotage Commission Administrator