

Maine Pilotage Commission



MaineDOT ~ Room 227 Conference Room
March 30, 2017

Minutes of Meeting

In compliance with MSRA 38 § 85 and in fulfillment of the Commission's duties addressed in MSRA 38 § 90, a meeting of the Maine Pilotage Commission was held on March 30, 2017 in Augusta, Maine.

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 (Telephone)
Captain Shawn Moody	– Maritime Industry Member
Captain Mark Klopp	– Pilot Member
Mr. Brian Downey	– Pilotage Commission Administrator

Maine Pilotage Commission Interested Parties present were:

Captain Dave Germond	– Portland Pilots
Captain Adam Philbrook	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Captain David Smith	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Captain Doug Fournier	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Captain Robert Peacock	– Eastport/Quoddy Pilot
Matthew Burns	– Maine Port Authority

Maine DOT staff present were:

Ms. Kim King	– Maine Port Authority
--------------	------------------------

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Captain Weeks opened the meeting at 1030, acknowledged a quorum, and facilitated introductions around the room.

Amendments and Carry-Over Items: There were no carry over items from the November 17, 2016 meeting, nor amendments to the agenda; and hearing no objections, it was thus:

RESOLVED to accept the agenda and Agenda Item One was closed.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of November 17, 2016 Commission Meeting Minutes

After considering the content of the November 17, 2016 meeting minutes, Mr. Dobbins motioned to accept the minutes. Captain Moody seconded the motion; and hearing no objections or abstentions it was thus:

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016 Maine Pilotage Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Commission Elections

Mr. Downey explained that as the first Commission meeting of the new calendar year the Commission is required per the Maine State Pilotage Rules to elect its Chair for the next year. Captain Weeks volunteered to continue serving as the Chair of the Commission. Mr. Downey outlined that he had previously announced that the election would occur during this convening of the Pilotage Commission and solicited nominations of any new candidates. Mr. Downey reiterated the solicitation for new candidates. No new candidates were nominated. Mr. Dobbins motioned to retain Captain Weeks as the Chair of the Commission. Captain Klopp seconded the motion. Hearing no objections or abstentions it was thus:

RESOLVED that Captain Charles Weeks was duly elected as the Chair of the Maine Pilotage Commission for a term of one calendar year.

Agenda Item 4 – Cruise ship and Boothbay Harbor Update

Amy Powers (CruiseMaineUSA) delivered a presentation outlining the current state of the cruise ship industry in the State of Maine which is an extremely bright spot in our regional shipping industry. CruiseMaineUSA is a port marketing coalition serving 12 ports in Maine and two in Atlantic Canada. Cruise Maine works under the umbrella of the Maine Port Authority to represent the cruise ship marketing and community relations efforts. This season (2017) will bring 440 cruise ship visits to our ports. Maine, as a cruise destination, remains popular with a growing season. 2017 will be 10 days longer than 2016 with the first cruise ship arrival on April 23. The last visit of the season will occur on November 2. 2017 shows promise with higher passenger volumes throughout Maine:

- Portland 125,000 passengers (28% increase over 2016) with 23 more cruise ship visits.
- Rockland 15,068 passengers (31% increase over 2016) with 5 more cruise ship visits.
- Bar Harbor 230,468 passengers (46% increase over 2016) with 66 more cruise ship visits.

Ms. Powers also summarized some global geo-political and economic trends that suggest higher volumes of cruise ships that are already deployed or entering the market will be increasingly more focused on North American destinations which Maine is well positioned to attract.

The Commission considered the possibility of Boothbay Harbor increasing in cruise ship volume as other Maine ports approach full capacity during the cruise season. As other ports throughout Maine become more congested during cruise season, cruise ship operators will start to seek less crowded alternatives. Currently, Boothbay Harbor is an under-utilized cruise ship port. Large ship companies, including Royal Caribbean, however, have shown interest in Boothbay Harbor. Presently, there are no active pilots with Boothbay Harbor pilotage. Only Captain Walker holds a Boothbay pilotage endorsement on his license but he does not have any recency and is essentially retired with his State Pilot license due to expire in July 2017. The Pilot Organizations should consider creating a plan to recruit, train, and license pilots for this pilotage area to meet potential demand. The Commission recognizes the uncertainty of the situation in developing such a plan and the potential costs of organizing training trips and license preparation.

Agenda Item 5 – Training Update

Mr. Downey briefed the Commission regarding the three-year Pilot Training Plan. Mr. Downey reviewed the two Bridge Resource Management for Pilots (BRM-P) training organized through Maritime Institute for Training and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) of Linthicum, MD which was well attended in December 2016.

Mr. Downey also discussed upcoming Manned Model Training that had been tentatively planned to be held at the Maritime Pilotage Institute (MPI) in Covington, Louisiana. MPI was able to support a few different manned model training options for up to three pilots but the course availability did not match with operations, and was therefore deferred. Mr. Downey also announced the availability of the NTSB Investigator Course which is tentatively slated for Mr. Dobbins to attend from November 28 - December 1, 2017.

Additionally, Mr. Downey confirmed that a renewed Maine DEP MOU was signed and that the Pilot Training Fund was replenished with \$20,000 in November 2017. The Commission's long standing Maine DEP partner, Peter Blanchard retired on November 1, 2017 and is now replaced by Mr. Jeff Squires.

Commission Comment:

- Captains Gelinias and Philbrook also discussed that Captain Philbrook be permitted to attend the Grenoble Manned Model Course, to which no objections were heard.
- The Commission indicated that the Commission policy to avail training to external pilots (with an appropriate fee) to pilots as far as Salem and Boston.
- Mr. Downey will investigate Azipod training for pilots in the upcoming training year.

Agenda Item 6 – Pilotage Conditions & Port Status

Captain Klopp led a discussion regarding the current status of shipping volumes in the region. While cruise ship traffic is up across the state, cargo volumes are significantly down. Portland has

been hardest hit with the virtual closure of the Portland Pipeline which historically has represented the largest portion of pilotage assignments and income due the traffic volume and ship size. Overall, ship arrivals are down by about 50% of pre-pipeline slow down numbers. Penobscot Bay has also seen a decline in cargo movement with a recorded 33% drop below average in the last five years. Captain Peacock, also offered that Eastport only had about 26 arrivals in 2016. The pilots collectively indicated that with such low ship traffic that maintaining viable pilotage services and associated infrastructure is unsustainable without some external support. Mr. Downey was assigned by the Maine Port Authority to research options for Port Authority relief.

Agenda Item 7 – Financial

Ms. King reported on *Ports and Marine Accounts* which has a current balance of \$11,719.44. License income and insurance expenses flow through this account.

Cash Report:

Total cash received since November 1, 2016:

- Total Cash Receipts: 1,125.00 (license renewal fees)

Cash disbursements since November 1, 2016:

- Board Travel: \$411.64

Training Fund Balance: The *Pilotage Training Account* currently has a balance of \$61,310.55.

Total receipts since November 17, 2016:

- \$2,700 (BRM-P Fees)
- \$20,000 Maine DEP

Total disbursements since November 17, 2016:

- \$617.70 (BRM-P Venue deposit (Portland)).

Agenda Item 8 – Commission/License Status

Mr. Downey reviewed pending license transactions including:

License Status:

Captain Klopp's renewal which was signed on November 17, 2016 and Captain Gelinas who was issued a renewed license on March 30, 2017. Captain Morrison has a complete pending license renewal which will be issued upon receipt of his renewed Federal license. Captain Smith is due for a State pilot license renewal August of 2017 and Captain Read is due for State pilot license renewal in December of 2017.

Commission Status:

Pending Commission renewals include Captain Morrison, as well as, Captain Moody and Captain Weeks. All Commissions expire in August of 2017. Both Captain Moody and Weeks have submitted their Commission Packages for renewal with Governor's Office (Director of Boards and Commissions).

Agenda Item 9 – Other/Miscellaneous

Mr. Downey raised the issue of Federal license delays due to a backlog of license updates at the National Maritime Center. The NMC is processing a high volume of updates due to the application of the Manila Amendments for STCW endorsements (effective January 1, 2017). The NMC has issued a blanket extension to any mariners that have been impacted by the delay until September 30, 2017.

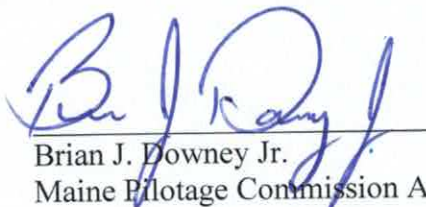
Agenda Item 10 – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair of the Commission, Captain Charles Weeks at 1215.

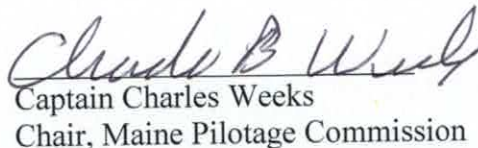
Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be set for June 29, 2017, 1030 MaineDOT Building Room 227.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian J. Downey Jr.
Maine Pilotage Commission Administrator



Captain Charles Weeks
Chair, Maine Pilotage Commission