

Maine Pilotage Commission



June 16, 2022

Minutes of Meeting

In compliance with MRSA 38 § 85 and in fulfillment of the Maine Pilotage Commission's duties addressed in MRSA 38 § 90, a meeting of the Maine Pilotage Commission was held on June 16, 2022.

Administration:

Maine Pilotage Commission Members constituting a quorum were:

David Gelinas	– Pilot Member
Gerald Morrison	– Pilot Member
Adam Philbrook	– Pilot Member
Lindsey Pinkham	– Public Member
Shawn Moody	– Public Member
Brian Downey	– Pilotage Commission Administrator

Maine Pilotage Commission Interested Parties present were:

Greg Smith	– Penobscot Bay and River Pilot
Mark Klopp	– Klopp Marine Services
Susan Klopp	– Klopp Marine Services

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order (Brian Downey)

Brian Downey opened the meeting at 1030 and acknowledged a quorum.

Amendments and Carry-Over Items: There were no carry over items from the March 16, 2022 meeting. Hearing no objections, it was thus:

RESOLVED to accept the agenda.

Agenda Item 2 – Review/Approval of the Minutes from March 16, 2022 (Brian Downey)

After considering the content of the March 16, 2022 minutes, David Gelinas motioned to accept the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting. Lindsey Pinkham seconded the motion. Hearing no objections or abstentions it was thus:

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2022 Maine Pilotage Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Election of Commission Chair (Brian Downey)

Mr. Downey revisited the annual election of the Commission Chair which was deferred from the last meeting in March. Mr. Downey explained that typically the Commission elects a Chair to serve for a one-year term. The election was originally deferred since there was uncertainty about renewal of various pending Commission renewal applications which are under review at the Office of Boards and Commissions and remain outstanding. It was further discussed that pending his retirement from the Commission, Captain Weeks plans to continue to serve until properly relieved and may continue to maintain the Chair position.

Hearing no objections or further debate it was thus:

RESOLVED that Captain Weeks will remain the de-facto Chair until he is relieved and the other pending Commission applications are finalized.

Agenda Item 4 – Financial (Brian Downey)

Mr. Downey reported on *Ports and Marine Accounts* which has a current balance of \$6,314.54 which reflects both disbursements and income since November 2021. License income and insurance expenses flow through this account. The *Pilotage Training Account* currently has a balance of \$78,641.81.

Ports & Marine Account Cash			
Cash Balance			
28 February 2022	Beginning Cash Balance		\$5,451.04
Incoming Cash Receipts			
	Cash Receipts	N/A	\$1,250.00
	Total Cash		\$6,701.04
Cash Disbursements			
	Operating Expenses	Milage & Plaques.	\$386.50
30 June 2022	Ending Cash Balance		\$6,314.54
Pilotage Training Fund			
Pilotage Training Fund Balance			
31 October 2021	Beginning Pilotage Training Fund Balance		\$78,641.81
Incoming Training Fund Receipts			
	DEP Receipt		\$78,641.81
			\$00.00
	Total Fund		\$78,641.81
Training Disbursements			
	Training Reimbursement		\$00.00
16 March 2022	Current Pilotage Training Fund Balance		\$78,641.81

Agenda Item 5 – New Applications

Gregory Smith appeared before the Commission as part of his initial license application. He currently holds an Unlimited Master’s license and sails as Chief Mate aboard tank vessels with Crowley Maritime. Gregory submitted a full application and initial license fee and was approved by the Administrator to test for initial licensure for Penobscot Bay.

- **POST MEETING:** Gregory passed his written Penobscot Bay examination on June 21, 2022 and was subsequently issued his first license endorsement.

Doug Fournier submitted a new route application for Fort Point to Bucksport, which was approved by the Administrator. A formal test date has not yet been scheduled.

Agenda Item 6 – Rate Adjustment Discussion (Brian Downey)

Rate adjustments were broadly discussed with general agreement that a regular cost of living adjustment is required. Additionally, the Temporary Pilot Boat Fuel Surcharge was discussed and assessed for continued application.

It was agreed that a Rate Adjustment Workshop will be held on November 2, with a follow-up meeting and Rate Hearing to be held on November 23, 2022. Considering the instability of the economy and fuel prices, as well as uncertainty of the regional cruise ship market, the Commission extends the window to submit Pilot Group Rate Proposals to the Administrator until mid-September. Upon receipt of the Pilot Group Rate Proposals, the Administrator will initiate the hearing process including advertisement and notification to customers.

Agenda Item 7 – Training Plan Update (Brian Downey)

Mr. Downey briefed the Commission regarding pilot training.

Mr. Downey sought input from assigned Commission investigators (Moody, Pinkham, and Norton) to determine the best time to schedule investigator training from an external vendor. Early August was the consensus, however, post meeting it remains uncertain if a vendor can accommodate the desired training window.

Manned Model Training was discussed in that Doug Fournier and Greg Smith will be prioritized as the next candidates for this valuable training. Training will likely occur at Maritime Pilots Institute (MPI) in Covington, LA.

Agenda Item – 8. Commission/License Status (Brian Downey)

Mr. Downey reviewed the status of Pilotage Commission appointments. In total, four sitting member appointments remain expired. Applications for re-appointment (of those expired) have been submitted to the Office of Boards and Commissions which all remain pending. Various *MaineDOT* staff including the Commissioner of Transportation have inquired about the overdue pending applications, which remain in the status below:

- Pinkham (October 1, 2024)
- Norton (October 1, 2024)
- Philbrook (October 1, 2024)
- Pending Renewal Applications
 - Gelinas (October 7, 2019)
 - Moody (August 21, 2020)
 - Morrison (August 21, 2020)
 - Weeks (October 21, 2021)

- Pending New Applications
 - Levi Ross
 - Michael Ames
- License Renewals
 - None.
- Upcoming Renewal
 - D. Smith August 2022

Agenda Item 9 – New Business/Old Business (Brian Downey)

N/A.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjourn (Brian Downey)

The meeting was adjourned by the Administrator of the Commission Brian Downey at 1220.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held November 2, at 1030 at Maine DOT Headquarters in Augusta. The next meeting announcement will be posted on the Maine Pilotage Commission website - www.maine-pilotage.org.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian J. Downey Jr.

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Administrator, Maine Pilotage Commission