

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

December 10, 2024
Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office
6 Concord Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Amy W. Page (Chairman)
Capt. Chris Thornton
Mr. David R. Galloway
Mr. Henry Hay
Mr. Joel Britt

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Ben Flowers

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant
Capt. Crayton Walters, Charleston Pilots Association
Ms. Laura Smith, LLR
Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Counsel
Lt. James Sullivan, USCG
Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met December 10, 2024 at the Charleston Pilots Office. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provided to the Charleston Post and Courier and proper notice also having been posted on the LLR website/Pilotage 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and a quorum having been noted as present, Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous otherwise noted.

Chairman Page asked the members to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Hay moved to accept the agenda and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Page asked the Commission to approve the November 12, 2024 minutes and the November financial reports. **Motion:** Commissioner Galloway moved to accept the minutes and the financial report and Commissioner Britt seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Sullivan reported for the Coast Guard. Lt. Ben Severson will be taking over for Lt. Sullivan, who is retiring. A memo was released regarding the XMAS Boat Parade on December 14, taking place in Charleston Harbor from 5pm to 8pm. The Coast Guard has received feedback pertaining to the new changes in the Notice to Mariners.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. Physicals are due for Capt. Logan and Capt. Teal 12/31. Still awaiting Capt. Rowe's physical.

Capt. Cameron reported that the Regulations/Policy had been pre-filed. It is reported that Rep. Gilliard is backing Bill H-3231- regarding the teaching of Maritime professions/Pilotage to students in Public Schools. The Commission is asking LLR to help in watching this bill. It resurfaced from 2 years ago.

Bill H-3357 is a bill that would establish a Committee on Bridge Vulnerability. The Emergency Management Center has already implemented a new code if there is a bridge strike – Bridge Strike Code. The Harbor Dispatch receives the initial call, and then sends the information to necessary offices.

Bill H-3479 is back regarding Reciprocity for Licenses from other States. New wording has been put in place, that it is only reciprocal if the other State also grants reciprocity. Section 720 grants a License from an Apprenticeship from another State, but since the Pilots are Title 54, it is an exempt occupation. Section 730 has been added, encouraging Commissions to increase their Apprentice numbers. For some occupations, that is plausible, but for the Pilots, it is not. All of these bills have been pre-filed in the House for the upcoming Legislative Session.

Capt. Camron informed the commission that DES requested Mediation regarding the Right Whale Rule and their objections to it. DES is just waiting to hear from NOAA.

Under New Business, Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that the Apprentices had all finished their first six months as of November 30, 2024. All three Apprentices completed their evaluations and all are in good standing.

Capt. Cameron would like to note that the Pilot's Annual Meeting will be in January along with the Annual Report. Please add this item to the Agenda for January.

There were no legal comments.

Under Announcements, Owen Gregory has announced that she will resign from her position as the Secretary.

There were no public comments.

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Amy W. Page
Chairman

A. Owen Gregory
Secretary