

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of 28 January 2020**

The following Commissioners were present:

James Mercante, President  
Lucienne Bulow  
Joseph Ahlstrom

**UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED UPON, (EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE MINUTED) IN A PUBLIC MEETING, WHICH CONVENED AT 10:30 A.M., THE BOARD CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS:**

1. The President called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
- 1a. Appearances in Public Session: None
2. The Draft Minutes of the 21 January 2020 Regular Meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.
3. Renewed, for a period of one year, (unless otherwise noted), the following New York State pilot license(s) following a personal interview and review of work performance data, training, and medical/health records:  
  
Matthew Haley - FBSHP  
Thomas Sullivan – Dep. SHP. Increase to Grade 5.
- 3a. Other Pilot/Personnel Matters:  
  
Appearance by New York Sandy Hook Pilot Association President Capt. John DeCruz, Apprentice Supervisory Committee Chair Capt. Robert Miller, and Director of Operations Chris Maglin to discuss Pilot Boat New York apprentice manning and operational requirements.
4. **The Board adjourned to Executive Session to discuss and/or act on personnel, investigative and/or legal matters.**
5. **The Board returned to Public Session from Executive Session.**
6. Sandy Hook Pilots Association:
  - 6a. The Board reviewed the SHPA procedures for communicating Boarding Deficiency Reports to its pilots. Continued on the docket.
  - 6b. The Board discussed the SHPA's proposed apprentice applicant call-up schedule.
  - 6c. Review of Apprentice Selection Regulations: Continued on the docket.
  - 6d. The Board has continued its survey and discussion relative to what the actions and response of a state pilot would be in an active shooter/hostile event situation encountered aboard a vessel, and has redirected the SHPA to continue to work on the development of language for further review by the Board when alerting USCG Sector NY VTS of such an emergency. At the 6 August 2019 meeting, the Board met with VTS personnel and the SHPA at USCG Sector NY for an overview and inspection of the VTS Center operations. After the overview and inspection, there was discussion concerning the state pilot's emergency communications with VTS, VTS acknowledgement language and VTS response procedures. At the 8 October 2019 meeting, the Board approved a request by the SHPA to conduct a pilot security training course as part of the SHPA's continuing education program. The course would be developed by the SHPA with the assistance of the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies ("MITAGS"). At the 19 November 2019 meeting, SHPA (NY) President, John DeCruz, and SHPA Director of Operations, Christopher Maglin, appeared before the Board to request a grant to assist with the

development of the pilot security training course by MITAGS, which includes pilot response to a life threatening/hostile event situation aboard a vessel. The Board took the request under advisement. At the 10 December 2019 meeting, the Board approved a Training and Education Grant to the SHPA to defray the cost for development of the above referenced pilot security training course. Continued on the docket.

7. Hudson River Pilots Association: The Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (“PAWSA”) study of the Hudson River was completed and released in 2018. The study included a review of the establishment of additional anchorages, fish habitats, dredging, petroleum carrying vessels, the use of the navigation channel for proposed power transmission cables, and other environmental and recreational issues concerning the Hudson River. At the 30 January 2018 meeting, the Board was briefed on the formation of a Hudson River Safety, Navigation and Operations Committee (“HR Committee”) to address, with local stakeholders, these and any additional issues, just as the Harbor Operations Committee provides a forum for New York Harbor issues. At the 9 July 2019 meeting, the Board was advised that language has been inserted in H.R. 3409, the House version of the USCG Authorization Act of 2019 (“Act”), which prohibits the USCG from establishing anchorages between Yonkers, New York and Kingston, New York. Additionally, the Act requires that the USCG provide 180-day advance notice to certain House and Senate committees prior to the establishment or expansion of anchorages outside the previously described waters on the Hudson River. At the 13 August 2019 meeting, the Board was updated on the status of the House legislation as well as the Senate’s version of the Act. At the 20 August 2019 meeting, the Board approved and sent a letter to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee outlining its concerns regarding the anchorage prohibitions in the Act. At the 24 September 2019 meeting, the Board was updated on the HR Committee’s 16 September 2019 meeting convened to discuss a unified approach to the Act’s anchorage prohibitions. At the 5 November 2019 meeting, the Board was advised that the HR Committee was unable to come to a consensus on taking any action regarding the anchorage prohibitions contained in the House version of the Act at their 30 October 2019 meeting. At the 10 December 2019 meeting, HSPA President Ian Corcoran updated the Board on the 9 December 2019 meeting of the HR Committee with respect to the Committee’s continued effort to reach a unified approach on the anchorage prohibition issue. Continued on the docket.

8. Long Island Sound/Block Island Sound Pilotage: The Board has continued to review the joint rotation system in the LIS/BIS. Continued on the docket.

9. REPORT(S) OF MARINE ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION:

9a. M/V MAERSK KENSINGTON (Built 2007): 30 December 2019. Fatality. FBSHP Dennis Sherwood sustained fatal injuries after falling from the ship’s pilot ladder onto the Pilot Launch PHANTOM while attempting to board the ship at approximately 0430 at the Ambrose pilot station. The USCG was notified. At 0630, FBSHP Edward Ireland boarded the M/V MAERSK KENSINGTON and brought it to its berth in Port Elizabeth. The Board dispatched Commissioner Joseph Ahlstrom to the vessel to meet with the USCG for an investigation and interviews of the ship’s crew. A Board representative also attended Coast Guard interviews of the crew of the Pilot Launch PHANTOM that transported Capt. Sherwood to the MAERSK KENSINGTON. At the 21 January 2020 meeting, Executive Director Andrew J. Garger reported on the U.S. Coast Guard inspection of the MAERSK KENSINGTON’s pilot ladder and rigging that he attended on 17 January 2020 while the vessel was docked in Port Elizabeth. The Board was designated as a Party in Interest by the U.S. Coast Guard and will continue to participate in the investigation. Continued on the docket.

9b. M/V GLOVIS SUPREME (Built 2013): 19 December 2019. Loss of Propulsion. FBSHP Robert Dobrowolski. While undocking from Berth 16 Port Newark under the conn of New Jersey State Licensed Docking Pilot Douglas Mattson, the vessel experienced a loss of propulsion. Although propulsion was restored a short time later, the vessel was directed by the USCG to proceed to Bay Ridge Flats Anchorage, with the assist tugboat remaining in proximity to the vessel, under the conn of Captain Mattson. Cause of the loss of propulsion was determined to be a failed limit switch. No violation of the New York Navigation Law or the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. No pollution, personal injury or damage. The Board voted to close the case.

10. PORT OF NEW YORK ISSUES:

10a. After a review of cruise ship pier allisions in the Port of New York and elsewhere, the Board has reviewed 46 U.S.C. Section 8501 regarding the coordination of federal and state law requirements with respect to pilotage of cruise ships when the master docks the vessel. In this regard, at the 27 February 2018 meeting, the Board noted recent incidents in Alaska where cruise ships were docked by the ship's master with a compulsory state pilot aboard. The Board also reviewed Alaska Administrative Code 12 ACC 56.960 (a) relative to the transfer of the conn policy between an Alaska state licensed pilot and a ship's officer. At the 11 December 2018 meeting, the Board noted a Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies best-practice course is being developed for Southeast Alaska Pilots and Norwegian Cruise Lines for pilotage of Very Large Cruise Ships. The Board has recommended that the SHPA work with cruise lines calling the Port of New York to develop a joint training program that would improve communications between state licensed pilots and cruise ship masters. At the 12 November 2019 meeting, the Board reviewed the NTSB's Marine Accident Brief on the 28 August 2018 CARNIVAL HORIZON's allision with Pier 88 at the Manhattan Cruise Terminal. Continued on the docket.

10b. The Board issued a letter on 10 November 2016 to the Army Corps of Engineers New York District ("ACOE") addressing the lack of visibility of large, unlit mooring buoys, especially during periods of darkness, located within certain designated federal anchorages in New York Harbor. The Board was advised by the USCG that the ACOE had opened a docket on this issue and would be conducting a workshop to assess anchorage improvements within designated federal anchorages in the New York Harbor. The Board has been provided regular updates as to the ACOE's New York & New Jersey Harbor Anchorages Study ("Anchorage Study") planning process as well as to the timeline and content of the initial public report on the Anchorage Study. Continued on the docket.

11. Pilotage of Foreign Flag Yachts/Recreational Vessels: During the 2019 legislative session, the Board reintroduced legislative amending the New York Navigation Law by exempting recreational vessels of less than 200 feet overall in length from compulsory state pilotage at the Board's discretion. The proposed amendment aligns New York law with New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island law relative to the issue of foreign flag yacht/recreational vessel compulsory pilotage. At the 10 December 2019 meeting, the Board was informed that the legislation was approved by the Governor on 6 December 2019 and becomes effective immediately. At the 7 January 2020 meeting, the Board was advised that a Chapter Amendment was introduced in both Houses of the New York State Legislature to provide technical clarification to the legislation. At the 14 January 2020 meeting, the Board was advised that the Chapter Amendment was placed on the Assembly Transportation Committee Agenda. At the 21 January 2020 meeting, the Board was advised that the Chapter Amendment was introduced in the State Senate. Continued on the docket.

12. Notice to Mariners, Marine Safety, Legal and Port Security News and Technical Information: Continued on the docket.

13. There being no further business to conduct, or public comment, the Board meeting was adjourned at 12:15.



Andrew J. Garger  
Secretary