



Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE WOODS HOLE, MARTHA'S VINEYARD AND NANTUCKET STEAMSHIP AUTHORITY

May 18, 2021

The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board held a meeting Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the first-floor conference room of the Authority's administration building, 228 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth. All five Board Members were present and participated via Zoom video conference call: Chair Kathryn Wilson (Falmouth); Vice Chair Moira E. Tierney (New Bedford); Secretary Robert F. Ranney (Nantucket); Robert R. Jones (Barnstable); and James M. Malkin (Dukes County).

1. General Manager Robert B. Davis provided an update on the Authority's efforts regarding the COVID-19 virus, commonly referred to as the coronavirus, as follows:
 - The Authority continues its cleaning and sanitization efforts to hopefully reduce potential sources for the virus at its facilities, vessels and on its buses.
 - Per Gov. Baker's COVID order requiring masks, even when social distancing is possible, and President Biden's Executive Order 13998, which "requires masks be worn on all public maritime vessels, including ferries, to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19," masks remain a requirement on board the Authority's ferries and buses and at its terminals.
 - On March 22, 2021, the U.S. Coast Guard issued an update to its February 1, 2021, Marine Safety Information Bulletin titled "COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System." This update requires wearing of a mask but also includes a list of exemptions, including children under 2 years old, individuals with a disability who cannot wear a mask, and for a brief period while eating, drinking, or taking medication.
 - Vessel crews, before the beginning of their watch, are given a wellness check by a trained medical professional. Shoreside personnel are given a wellness questionnaire, which includes a thermal scan by a non-contact scanner, which they need to complete and provide their supervisor to be given clearance to report to work or are sent home.
 - Most importantly, the Authority has told its employees that under no circumstances should they be coming to work while they are sick, for their own safety, the safety of their crewmembers and for the safety of its passengers.

- The Authority has created a dedicated landing page on its website for coronavirus updates, www.steamshipauthority.com/2019coronavirus, so customers are asked to continue to check there for updates, as well as the Authority’s Facebook and Twitter pages, its eNews and local media outlets. Since its inception, the dedicated coronavirus landing page has had nearly 147,00 visits with approximately 6,800 visits in the last 30 days and nearly 2,100 in the past seven days.
- Staff continues to work with its concessionaire, Centerplate, on re-opening plans. Some of the plans may include:
 - Limiting offerings to prepackaged food and drink.
 - Greater use of vending machines.
 - Installing Plexiglas shields where needed.
 - Sourcing a vendor for canned, not bottled, water.
 Centerplate continues to have staffing concerns, as do many seasonal businesses, and as a result some of the trips, primarily the last trips of the day and first trips of the morning maybe limited to vending only.
- Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Gov. Baker on Monday, May 17, 2021, relaxed the mask wearing order effective May 29, 2021. However, masks will still be required on “public and private mass transit and in transportation hubs, like commuter rail and bus stations”. The continuation of the mask mandate for public transportation is consistent with CDC recommendations on travel.

Also, Mr. Davis noted staff is evaluating the governor’s actions to determine when future Board and Port Council meetings can resume being held in person. Staff is also evaluating the Authority’s ability to continue to provide those via Zoom or another remote platform.

2. Woods Hole Terminal Project Manager William J. Cloutier provided an update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project. Since the last Board meeting, marine contractor Jay Cashman Inc.’s barge crew continued preparing the monopiles for the fenders. This includes welding the spool piece stand-off for the fenders and the pad eyes for the support chains, as well as filling the top four (4) feet of the monopile with concrete. The barge crew is also helping to drive the batter piles for the north head dolphin. Work on the passenger pier was suspended until the piles for the north head dolphin were completed.

The landside crew continued driving the 18-inch diameter piles for the north head dolphin. The landside crews needed to splice additional pipe to the original piles in order to get to the designed capacity requirements. The carpenters and ironworkers formed and poured the sheet pile cap for the bulkhead north of Slip No. 3. The carpenters and ironworkers then started to form the wall that is on top of that bulkhead. The railing contractor completed work on the north pier float railings and the siding. The divers started installing the anodes on the piles.

Thus far, the Authority has sent out 147 community emails updates for the project.

3. Regarding the landside portion of the project, the project's design team, led by BIA.studio, along with staff, are preparing responses to questions related to the project design. The utility building schematic design, in particular, is being evaluated as a result of the community input.

A second session will be held when the schematic design phase is at approximately 90% completion, tentatively scheduled for the next month or two. Then, during the subsequent design development phase, sessions will again be held at the 40% and 90% milestones (approximately in October and December of this year).

4. Director of Marine Operations Mark A. Amundsen provided an update on the dry dock for the *M/V Governor* at Thames Shipyard in New London, Connecticut. Highlights of the project include shaft and rudder repairs; blasting and coating the hull, main deck and sponson areas; and an overhaul of the emergency diesel generators and alternators. The current grand total for the contract, including credits and change orders, is \$1, 294,060.
5. Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Manager Angela M. Sampson provided an update on the Safety Quality Management System (SQMS) project. The project's certification has been delayed until October to allow time to allow Authority personnel to use the materials and make sure they are comfortable with the system that is in place. A draft Support Operations Manual remains under review. Project vendor SMSLLC will be on site to visit with fleet personnel to receive ongoing feedback on the Vessel Operation Manual as part of the "soft launch" of the project.
6. Communications Director Sean F. Driscoll provided the following updates on the website redesign project:
 - Following the close of the public survey in March, the project team is working with consulting firm Regan Digital Studio to draft the Request for Proposals for the new website and mobile application.
 - The team expects the RFP to be issued on or about June 1, 2021, and be due 45 to 60 days later.
 - The project team expects to then review the proposals and bring a recommendation to the Board in the fall.
7. Treasurer/Comptroller Mark K. Rozum presented the 2020 Cost of Service analysis. The highlights of the analysis for the Vineyard route were as follows:
 - The cost of vessel operations decreased by \$398,000, or 1.3%
 - Indirect nonvessel costs increased by \$121,000, or 0.4%
 - Overall, the cost of service decreased by \$277,000, or 0.4% versus 2019.
 - The 2020 vehicle occupancy rate was 79.6% versus 79.1% for 2019.

Highlights of the analysis regarding the Nantucket route were as follows:

- The cost of vessel operations increased by \$187,000, or 0.9%.

- Indirect nonvessel costs decreased by \$173,000, or 1.0%
 - Overall, the cost of service increased by \$14,000, or 0.0% versus 2019.
 - The 2020 vehicle occupancy rate was 80.9% versus 82.8% for 2019.
8. Mark Rozum then presented the draft 2022 budget policy statement to the Members, who voted 5-0 to approve it.
9. The Board authorized Mr. Davis to execute the following procurement items:
- Contract No. 11-2021, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Martha's Vineyard*, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Thames Shipyard of New London, Connecticut, for a total contract price of \$1,423,986.
 - Change Order No. 1151 for Contract No. 16-2017, Woods Hole Ferry Terminal Construction – Waterside, with Jay Cashman Inc. for a total cost of \$180,000. The change order is related to additional labor costs associated with driving the eight-foot monopiles according to the procedure established by GZA GeoEnvironmental.

The next regularly scheduled monthly board meeting is currently scheduled for 9:30 a.m. May 18, 2021. At this time, it is uncertain if the meeting will be held in person, via Zoom videoconferencing, or both. Please look for the formal notice for the meeting that will appear on this website next month. Thank you.