



Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

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

August 19, 2025

The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board met on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, in the Lecture Hall in the Frank & Maureen Wilkens Science & Engineering Center, Cape Cod Community College, 2240 Iyannough Road, West Barnstable. All five (5) members were present: Chair James M. Malkin of Dukes County; Vice Chair Peter J. Jeffrey of Falmouth; Secretary Moira E. Tierney of New Bedford; and Members Robert F. Ranney of Nantucket and Robert R. Jones of Barnstable. Ms. Tierney participated in the meeting via Zoom.

The Port Council met jointly with the Board this day. Present were Chair Nathaniel E. Lowell of Nantucket; Vice Chair Gordon M. Carr of New Bedford; Secretary Gregory R. Egan of Barnstable; and members Eric R. Dawicki of Fairhaven; Robert S.C. Munier of Falmouth; and Joseph E. Sollitto Jr. of Oak Bluffs. Member John F. Cahill of Tisbury was absent.

1. Chief Operating Officer Mark H. Amundsen reviewed the progress of the *M/V Monomoy* conversion at Alabama Shipyard. Recent milestones included the completion of the bulwarks; completion of the steel renewal and reinstallation of the keel coolers; installation of the skeg extension; and the start of the installation of the passenger lounge. The vessel is scheduled to be undocked August 26, 2025, with stability testing scheduled for August 29, 2025.
2. General Manager Robert B. Davis shared an update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project. Recent milestones at the utility building include electrical work on circuits and breakers in preparation of switching to live current; connections for geothermal pumps; installation of gypcrete flooring; ceiling work in the locker room and break room; installation of copper siding on the second floor; flood vent installation on the first floor; and preparations for the installation of a generator. Progress at the terminal building includes rebar installation; drainage installation; the second of three concrete pours; installation of HVAC duct work; and installation of the roof trusses for solar panels. To date, 287 emails have been issued providing updates on the project.

3. Treasurer/Comptroller Mark K. Rozum provided an update on the Reservation System Replacement Project. The Authority and E-Dea are in contract negotiations, but implementation work has begun while those discussions are under way. The current reservation system implementation timeline calls for the full go-live date to be in January 2027. Mark also reviewed more than a dozen supporting projects for the initiative. Director of Information Technologies Stephen M. Colman then reviewed the progress of the infrastructure assessment, and Tom Innis with Gibbous LLC reviewed the change management efforts under way as part of the initiative.
4. Mark Amundsen provided an update on the performance of the *M/V Aquinnah*, stating the vessel's average transit time is 44 minutes, one minute shorter than the scheduled 45-minute transit time. The vessel's fuel consumption rate has improved but he emphasized that the vessel runs more generators and has three thrusters, which make for a safer vessel while increasing the fuel consumption versus other vessels.
5. The Board voted to approve the report issued under Section 15A of the Authority's Enabling Act and the 2026 operating schedules as proposed for both the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket routes. The 2026 schedules will run from January 5, 2026, through January 5, 2027.

Mr. Malkin provided an update on the General Manager Search Committee. He said five "very strong" candidates were provided by Faststream, and the committee interviewed each of them in recent executive sessions. The committee will meet Thursday, August 21, 2025, in executive session to discuss the viability and qualifications of the candidates and review next steps before bringing recommendations to the Board.

6. Mr. Jeffrey presented an update on the IT Working Group, stating the next priority items will be development of a procurement plan, training plan, and resource allocation.
7. Following a recess, Emily Uselton and Janae Janik from Raftelis led a workshop on the Authority's Strategic Plan to share current, revised, and new initiatives for the ongoing implementation of the plan and to discuss with the Port Council and Board their preferred communication and reporting structure. Following updates by the strategic outcome team leads, there was agreement that a public-facing dashboard to be linked from the Authority's website with context and explanation of the plan would be developed for the public, Port Council, and Board members to receive real-time updates on progress.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held September 16, 2025, in the Nantucket Public Safety Building, 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket. The formal notice for the meeting will appear at www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting_notices.