



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

October 23, 2025

The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board met on Thursday, October 23, 2025, in the community/training room of the Tisbury Emergency Services Facility, 215 Spring Street, Tisbury. 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.

1. General Manager Robert B. Davis noted the passing of former Board Member Robert S. Marshall, who was Falmouth's representative to the Board for 11 years. Mr. Marshall was appointed to the Board in January 2003 and represented Falmouth ably and fully until December 2013. During those 11 years an astonishing number of projects or purchases that are still relevant to our daily operations took place, including the construction of the *M/V Island Home* (whom his wife Saralee christened) and *M/V Iyanough*; along the conversion of the *M/V Katama*, *M/V Gay Head* and the *M/V Sankaty*. He was also a part of the Board for the reconstruction of the Oak Bluffs Terminal, as well as the purchase of the land which became the Thomas Landers parking facility.
2. Chief Operating Officer Mark A. Amundsen reviewed the progress of the *M/V Monomoy* conversion at Alabama Shipyard. Recent milestones include the vessel being returned to the water for the rest of the conversion project; completion of the anchor windlass; installation of the bridge console; installation of coatings on the freight deck; and installation of components on the passenger space. He noted the propeller shaft installation, hull blasting, hull painting, vessel undocking, and stability test are complete, and the sea trials are pending the review by the Marine Safety Center, which is not in operation due to the federal government shutdown.
3. Mr. Amundsen provided an update on the *M/V Martha's Vineyard* dry dock at Thames Shipyard in New London, Connecticut. Highlights of the project include propeller refurbishment, steel repairs to the freight deck and galley deck, hull coatings, bow thruster

maintenance, piping renewals, and pump and motor overhauls. The total project cost, including credits and change orders, now stands at \$1,503,679.

4. Mr. Davis shared an update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project. Recent milestones at the utility building include installation of ceiling panels and lighting; installation of locker room seating; generator connections; rerouting of site power; the application of epoxy to the first-floor concrete floor; and installation of stair treads. At the terminal building, milestones included painting of steel posts and beams; framing of interior walls; testing of geothermal wells; and the continued installation of stone siding. To date, 294 eNews email updates have been sent regarding the projects.
5. Mr. Amundsen provided an update on the Reservation System Replacement Project. E-Dea was recently on site for two (2) weeks and did site visits to the Authority's locations and held in-depth meetings on pricing adjustments, booking flows, and integrations with financial and payment systems. Overall, the meetings were helpful, he said, and Authority staff and E-Dea will soon move into the solution design phase of the project. He noted that open houses are to be held in November to get public input on the project.
6. Director of Shoreside Operations Alison A. Fletcher then presented proposed revisions to the 2026 Operating Schedules. She noted staff had identified that the approved schedule was a reduction of service during the late summer schedules compared to the 2025 schedules. Staff is now proposing that the 2026 Late Summer Operating schedules mirror the 2025 schedules by triple-crewing the *M/V Monomoy* on the Vineyard route and running the *M/V Barnstable* with two single crews Monday–Friday on the Nantucket route.

Mr. Davis noted the schedules have been advertised for public comment, and the matter will be brought back to the Port Council and Board for a vote at a later date.

7. The Board approved a one-day license request by Helen H Offshore Fishing Corp. to provide passenger ferry service between Oak Bluffs Marina and Nantucket Boat Basin on October 25, 2025, for approximately 80 passengers. The service request stems from a group of Martha's Vineyard residents who wish to attend high school sporting events on Nantucket that day.
8. Treasurer/Comptroller Mark K. Rozum and Assistant Treasurer Courtney M. Oliveira presented the proposed 2026 Operating Budget. The baseline for revenues is the actual traffic statistics from August 2024-July 2025 and the operating expenses are based on the approved 2026 Operating Schedule. Additionally, the budget reflects the *M/V Monomoy* coming online and the reservation system launching in the fourth quarter.

In 2026, the projected operating revenues are \$152,742,907 and the projected operating expenses are \$162,081,970 that, when combined with other income and expenses, results in a net income from operations of \$2,595,166. Significant operating expense changes include vessel maintenance (up \$2,882,760), payroll (up \$2,708,372), depreciation (up \$2,219,537), and terminal maintenance (up \$1,913,950). Vessel fuel oil costs are projected to be down \$295,782.

Following discussion, the Board voted to approve the 2026 Operating Budget as proposed.

9. Mr. Rozum then reviewed the proposed 2026 rate adjustments, the total revenue of which is \$7,436,890. Of that, \$4,397,962 will come from the Vineyard route and \$3,038,928 will come from the Nantucket route.

The proposed Vineyard route adjustments are as follows:

Rate	Proposed Adjustment	Additional Revenue
Standard fare vehicles under 20' in length	▪ \$3.50-\$5.50 for 1/1 - 5/14 and 11/1 - 12/31 ▪ \$6.00 from 9/15 to 10/31 ▪ \$6.00 Mon-Thurs & \$8.00 Fri-Sun 5/15-9/14 ▪ \$55.00 – Auto 10-Ride coupon book	\$1,198,350
Excursion Fare	▪ \$1.75 from 1/1 – 5/14 and 9/15-12/31, each segment ▪ \$2.75 from 5/15 – 9/14, each segment	\$350,026
Freight	5.5% increase	\$866,449
Passengers	▪ \$0.50 one-way Adult ▪ \$0.25 one-way Child/Senior ▪ \$4.50 per 10-Ride Adult book ▪ \$2.75 per 10-Ride Child/Senior book ▪ \$9.25 per 46-Ride book	\$1,078,277
Daily Fee Parking	▪ \$5.00 per day from 1/1 - 3/31 & 11/1 - 12/31 ▪ \$8.00 per day from 4/1 - 5/14 & 9/15 - 10/31	\$760,415
Parking Permits	\$200 Woods Hole Lot \$50 Palmer Ave. Lot	\$129,100

The proposed Nantucket rate adjustments are as follows:

Rate	Proposed Adjustment	Additional Revenue
Standard fare vehicles under 20' in length	\$10 & \$15.00 – 1/1-5/14 and 11/1-12/31 \$15 – Mon-Thur 5/15-9/14 \$20 – Fri-Sun 5/15-9/14 \$15 – 9/15-10/31 \$80 – Auto 6-ride coupon book	\$599,605
Excursion fare	\$4.50 one-way 1/1-5/14 and 9/15-12/31 \$6.25 one-way 5/15-9/14	\$139,533
Vehicles 20' and over in length	5.5% increase	\$1,124,785
Passengers – High Speed Ferry	\$2.00 one-way Adult/\$3.00 Same Day RT Adult \$1.00 one-way Child/\$2.00 Same Day RT Child \$1.00 one-way Senior/\$2.50 Same Day RT Senior \$8.00-16.00 per 10-Ride book (Adult, Child, Senior)	\$496,289
Passengers – Conventional Ferry	\$1.00 one-way Adult \$0.50 one-way Child/Senior \$8.00 per 10-Ride Adult book \$5.00 per 10-Ride Child/Senior book	\$235,478
Parking Permits	\$75 Lewis Bay \$50 Yarmouth Road	\$16,900

Following discussion, the Board voted to approve the 2026 rate adjustments as proposed.

10. The Board authorized Mr. Davis to execute the following procurement items:
 - Contract No. 10-2025, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Nantucket*, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Thames Shipyard and Repair Company of New London, Connecticut, for a total contract price of \$1,559,883.
 - Purchase labor and expenses related to the overhaul of the two (2) main engines on board the *M/V Eagle* from Marine Systems Inc. of Chesapeake, Virginia, for a total price of \$239,072.54.
11. Mr. Malkin provided an update on the General Manager Search Committee. He noted the members of the committee had been in the process of doing “deep due diligence” on the finalists and are preparing to convene a special Board meeting in early November to interview the finalists in open session and then determine next steps in the process.
12. Mr. Jeffrey provided an update on the IT Executive Steering Committee, which met this week. He said the committee has two main focuses in the near future, the development of new business rules and standard operating procedures in response to the new reservation system, and the procurement plan that will be necessary to execute the project.

13. Following an executive session, the Board voted to approve an amendment to Mr. Davis's contract to extend his tenure as general manager to December 31, 2025, while the search process continues.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held November 18, 2025, at the Authority's Administrative Offices, 228 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth. The formal notice for the meeting will appear at www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting_notices.