



# Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

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

November 18, 2025

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The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board met on Tuesday November 18, 2025, in the first-floor conference room of the Authority's Administrative Offices, 228 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth. 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 videoconferencing.

1. Director of Engineering and Maintenance Zachary A. Lawrence reviewed the progress of the *M/V Monomoy* conversion at Alabama Shipyard. The vessel is pier side and recent work includes bridge console equipment testing, application of final freight deck coatings, and installation of the crew galley. 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 recently resumed operation following the federal government shutdown.
2. Mr. Lawrence provided an update on the unscheduled dry dock of the *M/V Barnstable*, reviewing damage to the port and starboard propellers that was discovered during a routine underwater dive survey. Mr. Lawrence noted no reports were made from vessel crews for a grounding that could cause this damage. Other vessels on the Hyannis-Nantucket route were inspected and found to be in good order. Chief Operating Officer Mark H. Amundsen and Port Capt. Paul F. Hennessy noted that the review of data and documentation from the vessel's operations was under way. Mr. Lawrence thanked Hornbeck Offshore for the loan of the replacement propeller blades.
3. Mr. Lawrence provided an update on repairs to the *M/V Iyanough* at Fairhaven Shipyard. A defect was found in the port jet room as part of normal daily inspections. The plate was cropped out and an insert fitted up and welded, and the repaired area was recoated and painted. Zach offered his thanks to Fairhaven Shipyard for their quick work.

4. Mr. Davis shared an update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project. Recent milestones at the utility building include installation of lockers and locker room seating; installation of second floor lighting; installation of carpet in the break room and multipurpose room; elevator testing, and installation of the concrete pad for trash receptacles. At the terminal building, milestones included framing of the interior walls; ongoing plumbing work; installation of HVAC ducts; and installation of retaining wall footings. To date, 298 email updates have been sent regarding the projects.
5. Mr. Amundsen provided an update on the Reservation System Replacement Project. The contract with E-Dea has been finalized, and the setup analysis workshops were completed earlier this month. The project team is now finalizing the customization requirements, refining the procurement timeline, and preparing for town hall meetings to be held in December.
6. Mr. Davis provided an update on trip diversions from Oak Bluffs to Vineyard Haven for the 2025 season. In total, 348 trips were diverted, an increase of 42 trips from 2024. Of those, 111 were due to the remnants of Hurricane Erin in August and 106 were due to the nor'easter in October. Since 2016, 14% more trips are scheduled to run to and from Oak Bluffs each year.
7. The Board voted to extend the day-of-sailing reservation-only policy through March 2026 on the Woods Hole-Martha's Vineyard route. The request was made by staff due to ongoing work at the Woods Hole Terminal, as well as the first phase of Vineyard Haven Terminal's pier repairs beginning in early 2026. However, the Board requested a trial of staging vehicles at the Palmer Avenue Parking Lot for standby travel, and a plan is to be presented at the December meeting for review.
8. Reservations and Customer Relations Manager Angela C. Campbell presented the 2026 reservation timeline for summer travel between May 14-October 22, 2026.
  - Non-transferrable Head Start: January 13-19, 2026
  - Transferrable Head Start: January 20-206, 2026
  - General Opening—Nantucket route: January 27, 2026
  - General Opening—Martha's Vineyard: February 3, 2026
  - Telephone, mail, and in-person opening: February 10, 2026

Additionally, the fall schedule will open June 17, 20206, and the winter 2027 schedule will open October 20, 2026.
9. Communications Director Sean F. Driscoll provided an update on the 2025 Veterans Day promotion, noting that 16 passes were distributed in Woods Hole, 11 in Vineyard Haven, nine in Hyannis, and 11 on Nantucket, for a total of 47 this year.
10. Assistant Treasurer Courtney M. Oliveira presented, and the Board voted to approve, a three-year transportation agreement with the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School District for a fixed price for transportation of student groups, teachers, administrators,

and game officials on school-approved travel. The agreement stipulates \$45,000, \$50,000, and \$55,000 costs in years one, two, and three of the contract, respectively.

11. The Board authorized Mr. Davis to execute the following procurement items:
  - Repairs, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, ACK Marine & General Contracting of Quincy, Massachusetts, for a total contract price of \$911,000. The board recommended a 25% project contingency be included for budgetary purposes.
  - Contract No. 05-2025, Low Voltage Cable Installation Project – All SSA Locations, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, American Tele-Connect Services, Inc., of Warwick, Rhode Island, for a total contract price of \$287,000.
  - A managed services support agreement for the Authority's website with Imarc, covering January 1-December 31, 2026, for a cost of \$120,000.
12. At the Board's request, staff agreed to examine the Reduced Medical Rate travel program to streamline the application process as much as possible for the public.
13. Mr. Jeffrey provided an update on the IT Executive Steering Committee, which met this week. He said the project team is reviewing Authority policies to determine which will require Board votes for modification in early 2026, as well as finalizing the procurement plan and the upcoming town hall meetings.
14. Mr. Driscoll noted that the Authority is holding its employee toy drive this year to benefit Toys for Tots, Inky Santa, the Red Stocking Fund, and the United Way of Greater New Bedford. Collection boxes are located at all terminals, plus the Administrative Office, the Mashpee Reservations Office, and the Fairhaven Vessel Repair Facility. Members of the public may also donate toys at one of those locations.
15. Mr. Davis noted the Authority is scheduling extra service for Thanksgiving week, as it has done in prior years.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held jointly with the Port Council on December 9, 2025, at the Authority's Hyannis Terminal, 141 School Street, Hyannis. The formal notice for the meeting will appear at [www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting\\_notices](http://www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting_notices).