



# 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

May 19, 2026

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The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board met on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Authority's Administrative Offices, 228 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth. Four (4) members were present: Chair Peter J. Jeffrey of Falmouth; Secretary Robert F. Ranney of Nantucket; and Members Robert R. Jones of Barnstable and Edward T. Gavin of Dukes County. Mr. Ranney participated via Zoom videoconferencing.

1. Valerie Colimon, Melissa Halbleib, and Madison Palin from RSM US LLP provided an overview of our 2025 audit. Emily Uselton from Raftelis LLC provided a review of the SSA's strategic plan implementation progress during 2025. No audit adjustments were made to the original trial balances presented at the outset of the audit, and while a number of uncorrected misstatements were noted, they were not material in the whole. Two significant deficiencies were noted, and management has presented a corrective action plan for both of them. General Manager Alex Kryska offered his thanks to Treasurer/Comptroller Mark Rozum and his team for their hard work this year working with RSM on the audit.
2. Director of Engineering and Maintenance Zach Lawrence reviewed the progress of the following engineering and maintenance projects:
  - The *M/V Nantucket* dry dock at Thames Shipyard, which is complete. Due to an extended dry dock period to perform work on the bow and stern doors, several items that would have been done at our Fairhaven Vessel Maintenance Facility were done at Thames Shipyard, which increased the project price to just under \$1.8 million, about 15% over budget.
  - The *M/V Aquinnah* repair period, which is scheduled to run through June 3, 2026. Highlights include converting the engine starters to turbine styles, engine servicing, installation of a shore power ammeter, the annual dive survey, and overall cleaning and painting. The company sea trial is scheduled for June 1, 2026.

- The upcoming dry dock of the *M/V Barnstable* at Thames River Shipyard, which is scheduled to begin June 10. Highlights of the project include hull inspection; anode replacement; inspection of shafts, bearings, seals, and couplings; and the skeg extension.
  - The recent repairs to the *M/V Iyanough* following the discovery of a crack in the pipe stern pipe trunk. The repairs were completed at Fairhaven Shipyard and the vessel returned to service four days after the discovery of the defect.
  - The Vineyard Haven Terminal underdeck concrete repair, which is now complete. The project was completed May 8, 2026, and 25% under its \$1.9 million budget.
3. Chief Operating Officer Mark Amundsen shared an update on the Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project. The exterior building envelope for the terminal building is complete, and the installation of exterior terrace pavers, the lift and side door, and exterior glass canopy are under way. The building's occupancy permit is expected to be received June 16, 2026, with details on the opening of the building to be announced.
  4. Following a review by Mr. Amundsen, the Board voted to approve an updated timeline for the reservation system replacement project as part of the True North Initiative. The new timeline pushes the schedule back two months to allow for integrations, internal and external communications and training. The shipper requests for bulk freight reservations are now expected in mid-November, and the public is expected to start using the site in mid-December 2026. The first uses at the terminal will be at the end of March 2027.
  5. Following review by Mr. Amundsen and Tom Innis with Gibbous LLC, the Board voted to accept Phase 2 of the policy changes under the True North Initiative. The policies affected include a new change and cancellation policies for vehicles and freight, changes to the commercial preseason freight process, the switch to virtual-only gift cards, and a new furlough fare policy.
  6. Communications Director Sean F. Driscoll noted that a Request for Qualifications for Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations Services was issued in April, with responses due June 16, 2026. Staff will review the submissions received and determine the proper review procedure at that time.
  7. The Members authorized Mr. Kryska to execute the following procurement items:
    - A professional services agreement with IntraSystems LLC for the preseason phase II integration with the E-Dea reservation system for a cost of \$132,000.
    - A continued support agreement with Gibbous LLC for project management services related to the True North Initiative from May 1–July 1, 2026, at a cost of \$90,000.
    - The purchase of parts, labor, machining, and dyno testing of one MTU engine of the *M/V Iyanough* to Steward & Stevenson Power Products LLC of Marlborough, Massachusetts, for a total price of \$709,750.
  8. The Board voted to authorize the staff to market the *M/V Governor* for sale this fall. The staff will start the process this summer but does not expect to place it on the market until after Labor Day at the earliest.

9. The Board voted to name Mr. Gavin to its newly formed Capital Planning Committee and Mr. Jeffrey to its newly formed Governance Committee. Both committees were created as part of the Board's adoption of its 2026 action items.
10. Staff presented the draft proposed 2027 Operating Schedules for review only. The schedules from January 6, 2027, through January 6, 2028, would start one day later and end one day later than the 2026 schedule on both routes. The schedules are largely the same as the 2026 schedules, although some freight service is being reduced on the Hyannis-Nantucket route in the off seasons and the fifth vessel is being planned to return to the Woods Hole-Martha's Vineyard route in the summer. The schedules will be advertised in local papers next week, and comments will be due by 4 p.m. June 29, 2026.
11. Mr. Kryska and General Counsel Terence Kenneally provided a brief update on the licensing of a freight truck transportation service between New Bedford and Nantucket with Offshore Tug and Transportation. Their vessel, the M/V Tom Nevers, has finished its overhaul in Norfolk, Virginia. Further discussion with OTT, the City of New Bedford, and the Authority are in order, but I expect to bring the matter to the Port Council and Board for their consideration in June.
12. The Board voted to authorize licenses with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Vineyard Lands for Our Community Inc. to install air quality and sea level rise monitors, respectively, at the Vineyard Haven Terminal.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at the Nantucket Hotel, 77 Easton Street, Nantucket. The formal notice for the meeting will appear at [www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting\\_notices](http://www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting_notices).