



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

August 18, 2026

The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board met on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, in the second-floor meeting room of the Authority's Hyannis Terminal, 141 School Street, Hyannis. All five (5) members were present: Chair Peter J. Jeffrey of Falmouth; Vice Chair Kreg R. Espinola of New Bedford; Secretary Robert F. Ranney of Nantucket; and Members Robert R. Jones of Barnstable and Edward T. Gavin of Dukes County. Mr. Espinola participated via Zoom videoconferencing.

1. Health, Safety, Quality, and Environment Director Bridget Sullivan presented an update on the SSA's Safety Quality Management System, or SQMS. During the May 18-21, 2026, internal audit, two major nonconformities were found, along with seven minor nonconformities, four observations, and one opportunity for improvement. Since 2023, the overall number of findings stemming from internal audits has increased, but Bridget noted this is the result of a maturing system that can now be fine-tuned for better performance. The SQMS will undergo an audit by RINA, a recognized accreditation firm, on August 31, 2026, and the Authority's ISO 9001 recertification audit is planned for this fall.
2. Director of Engineering and Maintenance Zach Lawrence reviewed the progress of the following engineering and maintenance projects:
 - The *M/V Barnstable* is back in the water following its dry dock at Thames Shipyard. The vessel is expected to return to the Authority's Fairhaven Vessel Maintenance Facility for its remaining repair work, which is expected to be complete September 10, 2026,
 - The *M/V Woods Hole* and *M/V Iyanough* bids are on the street.
 - The Fairhaven Transfer Bridge Replacement Project specs are under development and review.
 - Specs for the second phase of the Vineyard Haven Terminal pier repair project will be under development soon.
 - The engineering team is working on improved timelines for the *M/V Aquinnah*, *M/V Martha's Vineyard*, and *M/V Monomoy* dry dock submittals.

3. General Manager Alex Kryska noted that staff are still working with the Town of Falmouth on the Authority's curb cut application at the Woods Hole Terminal. Terminal staff are also going to place 15-minute parking signs at the rideshare area off Railroad and Luscombe avenues at the result of the town, and additional stop signs and pavement markings are also planned. Mr. Kryska also noted that the IT Department is pulling equipment from the temporary terminal building in preparation for its decommissioning.
4. Chief Operating Officer Mark Amundsen shared an update on the True North Initiative and the replacement of the reservation system. Recent progress included the release of R1.5.2 from E-Dea for testing, drafting of the third phase of policy updates, summer shipper meetings, and a recent onsite visit from E-Dea. Upcoming activities include the release of R1.6, finalizing the website launch plan, bringing the next phase of policy changes to the Port Council and Board for a vote, scheduling of public town hall meetings, finalizing the training plan, and beta testing.
5. The Board voted to authorize Mr. Kryska to execute the following procurement items:
 - A contract with BIA.studio for engineering services related to the installation of bollards at the Hyannis and Oak Bluffs terminals for a total of \$108,510.
 - A contract with Foth Infrastructure & Environment LLC for engineering services related to Vineyard Haven Terminal Pier Repair Phase 2 for a total of \$178,500.
 - A purchase order for labor, materials, and expenses required for the overhaul of two main engines on board the *M/V Martha's Vineyard* for a cost of \$375,429.38.
 - Contact 09-2026, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Sankaty*, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Thames Shipyard Inc. of New London, Connecticut, for a total contract price of \$1,445,475.
6. Mr. Kryska noted that the Capital Projects Committee recently held its first meeting and had a robust discussion on the purpose and direction of the committee.
7. Mr. Kryska informed the Board that the Offshore Tug & Transportation LLC license agreement had been signed, and they are setting up an initial meeting with Nantucket Terminal Manager Rich Marshall about their operations.
8. The Board voted to authorize the creation of a program offering reduced fares to qualified veterans for passenger tickets, which would be the same discount offered to senior citizens and carry the same geographic restrictions on their eligibility.
9. The Board voted to authorize the Authority to offer priority bookings to military honor guards traveling to the Islands for ceremonial services.
10. The Board voted to endorse an agreement with the Vineyard Transit Authority to provide a parking space at the Woods Hole Terminal and additional support for a pilot program to offer transportation to Vineyard residents who wish to connect with the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority's Boston Hospital Transportation vehicle at the Sagamore Bridge.

11. The Board voted to authorize Mr. Kryska to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tisbury and Oak Bluffs fire departments to set forth procedures and responsibilities regarding maritime firefighting.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at the Nantucket Public Safety Building, 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket. The formal notice for the meeting will appear at www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting_notices.