



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

September 15, 2026

The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Board met on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at the Nantucket Public Safety Building, 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket. 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. Gavin participated via Zoom videoconferencing. Vice Chair Kreg R. Espinola of New Bedford was absent.

1. General Manager Alex Kryska addressed the recent operational challenges faced by the Authority, which began with an internal audit that identified major nonconformities with several vessels regarding their quarterly inspections. That audit led to the *M/V Monomoy* being pulled from service for a day. Another nonconformity was subsequently noted with the radio telephony certificate on board the *M/V Island Home*, which led to that vessel's removal from service for three days. Coupled with mechanical issues on the *M/V Woods Hole* and *M/V Barnstable*, Mr. Kryska said these events have been an unacceptable failure in the high level of service the Authority provides. Mr. Kryska called for a "step back" on several of our initiatives to perform a thorough operational review and conduct a root-cause analysis of these issues. Board Chair Peter Jeffrey also called for that analysis, as well as a corrective action report to be delivered to the Board and the public by the time of the next Board meeting.
2. Health, Safety, Quality, and Environment Director Bridget Sullivan presented an update on the recent document compliance audit of the SSA's Safety Quality Management System, or SQMS. During that audit, three major nonconformities were noted, including the lapses in quarterly inspections noted above, as were one minor nonconformity and two observations. RINA, a recognized accreditation firm, accepted the immediate actions on several matters and the proposed corrective action completion date is November 29, 2026.
3. Director of Engineering and Maintenance Zach Lawrence reviewed the progress of the following engineering and maintenance projects:

- The *M/V Barnstable* has returned to service following its dry dock at Thames Shipyard and a subsequent repair period at the Authority's Fairhaven Vessel Maintenance Facility.
 - The Fairhaven Transfer Bridge Replacement Project specs are under development and review.
 - Specs for the second phase of the Vineyard Haven Terminal pier repair are in development.
 - 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.
4. Mr. Kryska noted that staff are still working with the Town of Falmouth on the Authority's curb cut application at the Woods Hole Terminal. The latest compromise is to send all our trucks up Cowdry Road and to combine the bus and rideshare exits to provide more separation between the bicycle and pedestrian crossing and vehicles. The plan will go to the town's Traffic Advisory and Bicycle and Pedestrian committees before review by the Select Board.
 5. Mr. Kryska shared an update on the True North Initiative and the replacement of the reservation system. Despite great headway in the project, in light of recent operational issues the ability to meet the current project deadlines is in doubt. Many of these dates are self-imposed, and the project team also has full-time jobs that require heavy lifting. There was agreement that the launch date for the system should be moved and perhaps done in phases, with the high-speed ferry reservations launching first, to allow for proper training and customer communication. Mr. Kryska emphasized that the basic booking functions in the test system are working, but some of the needed nuances for the Authority's unique operation remain in development.
 6. The Board voted to authorize Mr. Kryska to execute the following procurement items:
 - Contract No. 10-2026, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Island Home*, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Fairhaven Shipyard Companies of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, for a total contract price of \$685,940.
 - Contract No. 11-2026, Dry Dock and Overhaul Services for the *M/V Woods Hole*, Thames Shipyard Inc. of New London, Connecticut, for a total contract price of \$2,621,466.
 7. Mr. Kryska presented a proposal to reinstate standby travel on the Woods Hole-Martha's Vineyard route from October 23, 2026, through January 5, 2027. The Board took no action on it and instructed staff to discuss the matter with town authorities in Falmouth and Tisbury before requesting a vote.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at the Tisbury Emergency Services Facility, 195 Spring Street, Tisbury. The formal notice for the meeting will appear at www.steamshipauthority.com/about/meeting_notices.