

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of July 17, 2024. The hybrid meeting took place in person at the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Brooke Mohr, Thomas Dixon, Dawn Holdgate and Dr. Malcolm MacNab. Matt Fee joined the meeting late as noted below.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mohr called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SELECT BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as posted.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Select Board Meeting is Being Audio/Video Recorded.

2. Recognition of Retiring Police Officer Suzanne Gale with 32 Years of Service with the Town of Nantucket. Police Chief Jody Kasper accepted a plaque on behalf of Ms. Gale and thanked her for her 32 years of service to the Town. A round of applause followed. Chair Mohr provided words of gratitude for Ms. Gale's service as well.

3. www.nantucket-ma.gov/vesselstrike

The Devastating Impact that NOAA'S Proposed Speed Limit Will have on the Economy and the People of Nantucket - Take Action Today!

We Need All Residents and Visitors to Contact Nantucket Island's Federal Delegation to Request Exemption for Nantucket Sound. Use the Template at <https://nantucket-ma.gov/3114/NOAA-North-Atlantic-Right-Whale-Vessel-S> to Write to Your Representatives. Personalize it with Your Own Comments and Experiences to Make an Even Greater Impact.

4. 2024 Committee Vacancies – Round 2: Capital Program Committee; Council for Human Services; Council on Aging; Cultural Council; Nantucket Historical Commission; Real Estate Assessment Committee; Town of Nantucket Scholarship Committee.

Mr. Fee joined the meeting at 5:34 PM.

5. Select Board Announcements/Comments.

There were no Select Board announcements/comments.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ON COMMENTS FROM PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

There were no follow-up comments.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Burton Balkind commented on Public Comment, saying that he hopes answers to all Public Comments be made public.

Mr. Balkind commented on recent Conservation Commission appointments and a subsequent resignation.

Meridith Lepore commented on Airport noise, a large puddle offsite on Monohansett Road, near the Airport, and an upcoming Airport night project to repaint lines on one of the runways and associated lack of abutter notification.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Vineyard Wind I Blade Failure and Clean Up Status (Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting). Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson said that at approximately 5:00 PM on Monday, July 15, 2024, she was notified by a Vineyard Wind representative of a blade failure of one of the turbines at the Vineyard One off-shore windfarm. At that point it was unclear what the impact on Nantucket would be; however, modeling indicated the potential for debris to wash up on Nantucket shores east of Miacomet. That in fact happened on Tuesday. She said that Town Administration was in contact with Vineyard Wind representatives throughout Tuesday and into today as to clean up efforts. She said the incident has been alarming and deeply disturbing to all in Town government. She noted that the Town of Nantucket neither owns nor operates a wind farm, so responding to this type of incident was uncharted territory for Town staff. She said that public safety is always a top priority, which resulted in closing south shore beaches to swimming on Tuesday, a decision not made lightly on a hot July day. She said the beaches were reopened to swimming today, but the Town continues to ask beachgoers to exercise caution while in the water or on the sand. Ms. Gibson thanked everyone – residents and visitors alike – who aided in the recovery of debris from island beaches. She added that Vineyard Wind is recommending for specific reasons that only its trained employees or contractors collect and remove the debris. She said the Town expects to hold Vineyard Wind accountable for all costs and associated remediation efforts incurred by the Town of Nantucket in response to this incident. She turned the item back to Chair Mohr. Chair Mohr said that public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person and reviewed in the room where speakers will be asked to line up.

Klaus Moeller, CEO of Vineyard Wind (VW), acknowledged the seriousness of the situation and apologized for the impact on Nantucket's beaches, saying that VW is open to input. He thanked the Town departments, especially the Harbormaster and Police Departments for their assistance. He also thanked the Land Bank for its help. Mr. Moeller reviewed the circumstances, as currently known, of the blade failure, including the response by VW. He expressed appreciation for the community's response to help clean up the debris. He spoke on plans for the clean up effort, as well as the removal of the debris. Roger Martella of General Electric - Vernova, the manufacturer of the turbine blades said that the company is taking the incident very seriously and hopes to gain input tonight from the Town and community. He spoke on the company's experience with wind turbines and associated parts. He continued, speaking about GE's response to the incident and said GE wants to understand how it can best support the Town and take in and answer questions from the public. He spoke on the initiation of a root cause analysis that is underway to determine why the turbine blade failed. Chair Mohr asked for any Board comments or questions. Dr. MacNab commented on the material being described as "nontoxic" in a VW press release, saying that it is not nontoxic. Ms. Holdgate asked if there have been similar incidents like this, elsewhere. She added that the risks are very concerning. Mr. Martella commented on GE's expectations for its turbines, being of the highest level. Chair Mohr, due to audience comments, reminded the public of the public comment parameters and asked for people not to speak when others are speaking. Renjith V of GE elaborated on the incident. Dr. MacNab asked for statistics on the number of such failures. Mr. Martella said that this is a rare and unusual circumstance but that reliability information could be shared. Mr. Fee concurred with Dr. MacNab and again requested failure information. Some discussion followed on the nature of the failure information the Board is seeking. Mr. Dixon asked about the remaining blade on the affected turbine and if any further debris might wash up as a result of its removal; and, where the debris that has washed up will

be taken. Mr. Moeller responded that a removal plan for the other blade is being developed and discussed the plan for the collection of any debris that might result from its removal. He said the debris collected on the island will be taken off the island for analysis. Mr. Vk explained the specifics of the remaining blade's removal process, saying that it will be very controlled. Chair Mohr asked about the health hazards, including whether or not any chemicals were released and the risk of fiberglass particles in the water. Mr. Fee asked if PFAS is part of any release. Mr. Vk said the materials are inert; and, will get back to the Town as to the existence of PFAS in the materials. Chair Mohr asked about the barrier around the impacted turbine. Mr. Fee noted that the debris has washed up in areas west of Miacomet as well. Mr. Moeller expressed a commitment to clean up any debris from this incident, anywhere on the island. Chair Mohr asked how much of the failed blade has been recovered. Mr. Moeller indicated approximately how much material has been recovered so far. Chair Mohr said that it is a priority for the community to understand the health and other risks as soon as possible. Mr. Fee asked about lightning rods on the turbines and whether or not lightning may have been a factor in the failure. Mr. Vk responded and explained how the lightning rods work and that this will be part of the root cause analysis. Mr. Dixon asked about federal or state reporting requirements. Mr. Martella said there are, and there will likely be engagement with those agencies as the root cause analysis progresses. Mr. Moeller spoke further on this. Chair Mohr said one of the Town's greatest concerns was the timing of notification to the Town. She commented that there would have been more time to prepare a more effective response if the Town had known about this quicker. Mr. Moeller indicated understanding and acknowledged the need to more directly inform the Town, more quickly. Chair Mohr opened public comment and reiterated the instructions and parameters, including the 3 minute time limit.

Rob Frame expressed concern about toxic materials, particularly as related to sea life. Anastasia Lennon asked about the root cause analysis regarding a similar incident in the UK; and, a question about the blade that failed. Mr. Martella said GE has the root cause analysis report for the UK incident and do not think the causes are connected. With regard to the blade that failed, Mr. Vk said that is under review. Roger Schwab said the Select Board needs to look at its liability with respect to allowing this offshore wind farm and said the Board should reconsider that decision or resign. Ms. Holdgate stated that it is not even in the Board's purview to "approve" and offshore wind farms. She clarified the purpose of a mitigation agreement associated with Vineyard Wind, reiterating that the Board does not have the authority over offshore wind farms. Chair Mohr again requested the public not to talk at the same time. Noah Singer spoke on microplastics and whether or not water quality testing has been done. Mr. Moeller said VW has not done that but will add it to its consideration. Bill Jennings spoke against offshore wind farms in general and requested clarification on the UK incident. Diane Coombs said she would like to know how the blade failed and expressed concern about the ingestion of fiberglass particles by sea life. Vallorie Oliver spoke in opposition to Vineyard Wind and expressed concern about the incident, including the plans for environmental impact. Larry Vaughn spoke against offshore wind farms and asked questions about how much debris has been collected and if flares from flare guns would ignite any of the debris. Sean Larson of Robert B. Our Company, the local contractor engaged to assist with collection of debris spoke on the amount collected so far. Chair Mohr reiterated information the Town is seeking as to the debris collected. Mr. Moeller said some debris has also been taken to New Bedford. Amy DiSibio expressed concern as to the incident. Veronica Bonnet asked what the plans were to remove the remainder of the failed blade, if water quality sapling is occurring and if pieces of debris are being brought to the landfill. Chair Mohr said that citizens are urged not to clean up, but if they do, to call the contact at VW for pickup. She doesn't intend to allow any debris end up in the Nantucket landfill. Daniel Sparks spoke against the windfarm in general and asked who is responsible to protect the people of Nantucket and their interests. Dan Pronk spoke about the toxicity of fiberglass and asked if anything else has occurred the Town is not yet aware of.

Galen Gardner spoke against the wind turbines in general. Bonnie Brady spoke on blade failures of wind turbines. Taylin Brayden said the wind turbine project is not green energy. Ellen Ray asked several questions about wind turbines. Ms. Holdgate asked if a representative from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) can be at next week's Select Board meeting.

Chair Mohr recessed the meeting at 7:30 PM; the meeting resumed at 7:32 PM.

Mr. Moeller stated that he just received a phone call about the integrity of the remaining blade, which he needs to respond to and he will need to attend to it. Chair Mohr agreed Mr. Moeller should go address that and other VW representatives can remain at the meeting and answer questions, and if Mr. Moeller can return and update the Board on what is happening he should do so.

Burton Balkind said that he went surfing today, did not see any debris and does not think people should be catastrophizing about this. Gavin Norton spoke on the financial impact of this situation on his surfing business at Nobadeer. Chair Mohr and Mr. Fee asked Mr. Norton to compile his financial loss information and give it to the Town. Bob DeCosta, speaking as a member of the Shellfish and Harbor Advisory Board (HSAB), asked the Select Board to have the Natural Resources Department monitor potential water quality issues in the harbor and report on this. Mr. DeCosta said personally, he finds VW's delay in notification to the Town unacceptable, saying this should be treated similarly to an aircraft incident. Meghan Lapp asked how impacted fisheries will be compensated. Michael Clayton, a VW project manager, said VW will look not this. Bruce Percelay said this incident should be treated like a criminal case. Mary Chalk asked where the Governor and the representatives who are in favor of the wind turbine projects are. Rick Atherton spoke against the wind turbines in general. Chris Perry asked the Select Board members if any of them would be willing to remove the Town from the Good Neighbor Agreement, today. Ms. Holdgate said the Board needs to review its options with legal counsel, noting that withdrawing from the Good Neighbor Agreement doesn't cancel the project. Mr. Fee said if he says yes, that will be an irresponsible message tonight. Dr. MacNab said in one way he does want to support getting out of the Good Neighbor Agreement, but he doesn't want to do that just for "window dressing". Mr. Dixon said he agrees with the other members in that the Board needs to understand the implications, but he added that he hears the community tonight. Suzanne Girardi said if safety is the first priority of VW, they would have notified Nantucket immediately. She said Town employees such as lifeguards and dock staff have put themselves in harm's way, doing the clean-up work the experts should have been doing. Brian Borgeson asked if there are mitigation plans in case of oil spills from the damaged turbine and asked how long will VW be here to pick up debris and who is paying for the clean-up. Mr. Clayton said that VW does have an oil response mitigation plan. Chair Mohr stressed that communication between VW and the Town is key, and the Town needs to know to get ahead of incidents in the future. Jen Cullen of VW encouraged people to call VW to clean up debris when it is found. She added that they are actively seeking how to get on Tuckernuck and Muskeget to remove debris that has washed up there. Emily Molden of the Nantucket Land and Water Council offered to assist the Town with water quality testing. John Borden said this is not just a Nantucket problem, but a problem all along the eastern seaboard. Jack Coleman asked why is it okay to swim but people are being advised to wear shoes on the beach and not take their dogs to the beach. Harbor Master Sheila Lucey said swimming has been reopened because most of the large pieces of debris have been removed from the water, and that she advised footwear and no dogs so people and pets wouldn't cut their feet on fiberglass shards. Charlotte Duhamel asked about remediation of the harm to whales who feed on the surface of the ocean and ingest these materials. Chris Monohan spoke of the experimental nature of the wins project because of its first of its kind, massive scale. Ms. DiSibio said she feels the Good Neighbor Agreement with VW gives the Town more risk and less reward. Mary Wawro spoke in the Good Neighbor Agreement and legal issues she sees

in it. Greg Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners said there is nothing in the agreement that prevents the town from seeing recovery for any tort. Roberta Mauch said she wants to ensure no debris ends up in Cape landfills and asked for transparency. Ms. Cullen said the debris materials were being handled by a federal agency and there is no answer as to where the disposal will end up. Chair Mohr said that none of it should end up in the Nantucket landfill and urged people not to bring debris they might have picked up to the dump. Veronica Bonnet thanked Town staff for cleaning up debris.

Ms. Mohr asked the Board how they want to proceed with the rest of the agenda as they await news from VW. Some discussion followed.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, WARRANTS AND PENDING CONTRACTS

Dr. MacNab moved approval of items VII 1 – 2; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; all in favor, so voted.

1. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2024 at 11:00 AM; July 10, 2024 at 5:30 PM; July 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

2. Approval of Treasury Warrants for July 17, 2024.

VIII. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS/REPORTS

1. Request For Letter of Support for Seasonal Communities Designation and to Authorize Select Board Chair to Sign. Housing Director Kristie Ferrantella reviewed the request. Mr. Dixon moved to approve the letter of support and authorize the Chair to sign; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Nantucket Sewer Commission: Public Hearing to Consider Amendments to Nantucket Town Sewer District Pursuant to Section 10 of the Nantucket Sewer Act Regarding Articles 13, 14 and 15 of the September 17, 2024 Special Town Meeting. Chair Mohr opened the hearing. Dr. MacNab moved to continue the hearing to July 24, 2024; seconded by Mr. Fee, all in favor, so voted.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Select Board Strategic Plan Update: Housing Focus Area. This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

XI. SELECT BOARD'S REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Committee Reports. There were no committee reports.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Vineyard Wind I Blade Failure and Clean Up Status (Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting). Ms. Cullen stated that the remainder of the broken blade is ready to come down and more debris is entering the water. She said that notifications are being made now. Chair Mohr asked if a boom will be deployed and if it will be effective in containing the debris. Ms. Cullen said a boom is being deployed although they don't know the effectiveness of it. Ms. Lennon asked if the blade detaches could it damage the rest of the turbine. Mr. Vuk said the detachment of the blade should not impact the turbine. Ms. Lennon asked what needs to be done for the operation to resume. Mr. Clayton explained that a root cause analysis has to occur first. Ms. Mauch asked if electric rate payers will be responsible for any of the clean-up. Mr. Monohan said there should be zero tolerance for error. Chair Mohr said as soon as VW knows something, they will tell the Town. She said in the meantime, people from the public should not pick up debris and none of it should be brought to the landfill.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. MacNab moved adjournment at 9:10 PM; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; all in favor, so voted.

Approved the 24th day of July 2024

**SELECT BOARD
JULY 17, 2024 – 5:30 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- III. 4. Round 2 Committee Vacancies Timeline; Notice of Committee Vacancies
- VI. 1. Letters re: Vineyard Wind blade failure
- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 7/8/2024 Licensing & Pets; Draft minutes of 7/10/2024; Draft minutes of 7/11/2024 Open Session
- VIII. 1. Draft letter of Support for Seasonal Communities Designation
- IX. 1. Criteria Checklist for Expansion of Sewer District; Article 13 - 44 Skyline Dr; Article 13 map; Evaluation of Article 13; Article 14 – 13 & 13A Woodland Dr; Article 14 map; Evaluation of Article 14; Article 15 – 43 Monohansett Rd; Article 15 map; Evaluation of Article 15; Mooney letter of opposition; Gasbarro letter of opposition; Surfside Association letter of opposition
- X. 1. Strategic Plan: Housing presentation