

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of July 24, 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, Matt Fee, Dawn Holdgate and Dr. Malcolm MacNab.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mohr called the meeting to order at 5:43 PM following a meeting of the Nantucket Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board.

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. Announce Applications Received for 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. Operations Administrator Erika Mooney read the names of the applicants for Round 2 appointments to fill vacancies, as follows:

Capital Program Committee: Peter T. Kaizer (incumbent but applied late for annual appointments); Joseph W. Plandowski

Council for Human Services: no applicants

Council on Aging: Arlene O'Reilly (incumbent but applied late for annual appointments)
Cultural Council: Jack Bulger

Nantucket Historical Commission: Linda Williams; Diane Coombs; Sarah Noelle McLane

Real Estate Assessment Committee: Thomas Barada (incumbent but applied late for annual appointments)

Town of Nantucket Scholarship Committee: Jacqueline McGrady; Anne E. Broadus

3. Conservation Commission Vacancy: Applications Due August 16, 2024 at Noon; Appointments on September 25, 2024 per Select Board Committee Appointment Process. Ms. Mooney reviewed the timeline for the Conservation Commission vacancy.

4. 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-](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.

5. No Select Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 (5th Wednesday).

6. Select Board Announcements/Comments.

There were no Select Board announcements/comments.

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

1. Follow-up on Public Comment from June 25, 2024 Joint Select Board – Board of Health Meeting Regarding PFAS (Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). Assistant Town Manager Gregg Tivnan reviewed response to comments made at the June 25, 2024 joint Select Board – Board of Health meeting, as contained in the agenda packet.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan Perry said that on August 1st, a panel discussion regarding PFAS will be held at the Dreamland Theatre.

Campbell Sutton thanked Town staff for recent answers to public comments she made over the last couple of weeks. She asked about the status of a Town request for a Housing Court on Nantucket that was discussed at the 2024 annual town meeting.

Ellen Ray asked if anyone in Town government is speaking with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) about the proposed northern right whale vessel slow down restrictions. Chair Mohr said a meeting is scheduled for next week.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, WARRANTS AND PENDING CONTRACTS

Mr. Fee moved approval of items VII 1 – 4; seconded by Mr. Dixon; all in favor, so voted.

1. Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

2. Approval of Payroll Warrants for July 21, 2024.

3. Approval of Treasury Warrants for July 24, 2024.

4. Approval of Pending Contracts for July 24, 2024 - as Set Forth on the Spreadsheet Identified as Exhibit 1, Which Exhibit is Incorporated Herein by Reference. Mr. Fee commented on two grant assurance agreements for the Airport.

VIII. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS/REPORTS

1. Resignation Acceptance: Conservation Commission. Ms. Holdgate moved to accept the resignation of C. Marshall Beale from the Conservation Commission with thanks for his service; seconded by Mr. Dixon; all in favor, so voted.

IX. REAL ESTATE MATTERS

1. Request for Approval and Execution of Purchase and Sale Agreement, Quitclaim Deed and Settlement Statement of Town-owned Yard Sale Parcel Known as Parcel T-1, Masquetuck Street as Shown on Plan of Land Entitled "Being a Subdivision of Masquetuck Street as Shown on L. C. Plan 40795-A, Plan of Land in Nantucket, Massachusetts," Dated May 9, 2011, Revised June 24, 2019, Prepared by Nantucket Surveyors, LLC and Recorded with Registry District of the Land Court as Land Court Plan No. 40795-B, Pursuant to Vote on Article 108 of 2008 Annual Town Meeting. Real Estate Specialist Tracy MacDonald reviewed the agenda item, noting it has been reviewed by, and the conveyance is recommended, by the Real Estate Assessment Committee and the Coastal Resilience Coordinator issued the evaluation contained in the agenda packet. Ms. Holdgate moved approval; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

X. 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 (Continued from July 17, 2024). Chair Mohr opened the hearing. Stephen Maury, sponsor of Article 14, spoke in favor of the article. Sewer Director David Gray reviewed the assessment considerations of a small staff group consisting of him, Chief Environmental Health Officer John Hedden, Planning Director Leslie Snell and Senior Planner Megan Trudel. He explained the group is recommending negative motions on Articles 13, 14 and 15, noting that the properties in Article 13 and 14 are not within the listed needs area as contained in the 2004 and 2014 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans and that the sewer pump station that serves the Richmond housing development, adjacent to some of the properties in the warrant articles, off of Old South Road, has pending upgrades to accommodate the Richmond properties, but not properties outside of the Richmond project boundaries. Some discussion followed. Ms. Holdgate asked about sewer treatment capacity with the additional units being sought to be included in the sewer district. Mr. Gray responded and indicated that additional information is needed. Mr. Fee said he would be inclined to approve the recommendations of the staff work group at this point and if additional information comes forward, possibly a different recommendation could be put before the Town Meeting. Edwin Lemberg spoke on the history of sewerage in this area, specifically with regard to the sewer pump station. Matt Peal spoke against the development that Mr. Maury is proposing; and, Article 14. Arthur Gasbarro spoke against Article 14 and pointed out several issues with Mr. Maury's representations. He said that the checklist used to evaluate sewer district expansion requests is intended to protect the capacity of the wastewater treatment facilities and the evaluation needs to be thoughtful and focused on properties that are necessary to be sewerage for environmental reasons. Mr. Maury spoke again in favor of his warrant article.

Dr. MacNab moved to close the hearing; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

Mr. Fee suggested that Mr. Gray meet with Mr. Maury in advance of the September 17th special town meeting regarding any information needed. Ms. Holdgate said she is uncomfortable voting on this with the potential for a discrepancy with the checklist. She added that she is also uncomfortable that no Town staff met with Mr. Maury. Dr. MacNab said he feels the checklist is a guideline and the Board could move forward with a vote. Dr. MacNab moved that Articles 13, 14 and 15 move to special town meeting with negative motions, requiring a two-thirds vote; seconded by Mr. Fee; so voted 4-1. Ms. Holdgate was opposed.

Ms. Holdgate left the meeting at 6:34 PM; she returned at 6:36 PM.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Follow-up on Vineyard Wind I Blade Failure and Clean Up Status.

Chair Mohr read a statement that the Board authorized her to make during its executive session on July 23, 2024 (attached). She also spoke on the public outreach efforts and information being put out by the Town. She thanked Assistant Town Manager Rick Sears and Communications Manager Florencia Rullo for their round-the-clock efforts to keep the community informed in a timely manner.

Chair Mohr noted that representatives from General Electric Vernova and Vineyard Wind are present in the room, and remotely. Richard Smith of Vineyard Wind (VW) spoke on the status of the clean-up efforts and the location of the debris field. He urged the public to get in touch with VW if they come across debris and a team will be dispatched to get it. Roger Martella of GE Vernova spoke on what his company has been doing over the last week, including communications with regulatory and governmental agencies. He said they are very aware of ongoing public concerns about the debris, the status of the impacted turbine and environmental impacts. He said GE has engaged an environmental consulting firm, Arcadis, to help assess the environmental impacts and noted a summary of these is posted on the Town website. He spoke about risks and public safety and indicated that GE is committed to addressing the concerns of the community. With respect to the impacted turbine, he said safety is the most important consideration and while GE wants to remove the rest of the impacted blade, a full safety assessment is being undertaken to ensure that can be accomplished safely. He shared the status of the preliminary root cause analysis that will determine what happened. He said preliminarily, there seem to be two potential causes: a manufacturing deviation and quality inspection that did not happen properly. He explained next steps and emphasized that these will be rigorous. Mr. Fee asked how inspections on the existing turbines will be accomplished in a thorough way. Mr. Martella explained. Mr. Dixon asked if recovery efforts will retrieve parts of the blade that have sunk. Mr. Smith responded. Mr. Dixon asked about the status of a complete root cause analysis. Renjith V of GE explained. Some discussion followed. Town Counsel John Giorgio asked about risk assessment to marine and other aquatic animals with ingestion of any debris materials. Mr. Martella responded and explained that Arcadis has been hired to undertake such an assessment. Some discussion followed. Mr. Giorgio asked about the extent of the debris field. Mr. Smith responded. Jim Nuss of Arcadis explained how the environmental assessment and risks will be undertaken. Chair Mohr asked about immediate risks to humans eating local fish that may have ingested debris materials. Mr. Nuss said that hasn't been considered yet and will be part of future activities. Chair Mohr opened public comment on this matter and explained the parameters of public comment. Meredith Lepore asked about PFAS and Teflon parts of the wind turbine blade; and, the ingestion by sea life of micro-fiberglass particles, the sea life which is then ingested by humans. She expressed disbelief at statements from VW and GE representatives, saying that "better answers" are needed. Veronica Bonnet expressed appreciation for the Town's outreach on this issue. She expressed concern at the lack of state and federal regulatory officials at this meeting. She questioned whether or not the Vineyard Wind project is "halted". Ellen Ray asked about the specifics of the current VW project, including number of turbines and number that are of concern. She asked questions about several aspects of the clean-up. She questioned the "Good Neighbor Agreement" (GNA) between the Town and Vineyard Wind. Mr. Martella said there are 24 turbines in the water with 10 operating, each of which has three blades. Mr. Smith explained that the suspension order issued was for most of the work but not all; he said there is work going on approved by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Discussion followed on regulatory agency involvement and oversight of this situation. Cliff Carroll spoke on the incident and asked several questions, focusing on oil and other spills. He said he feels VW is "passing the buck" to GE. George Ellis spoke on failure rate percentages and the number of incidents which could happen per year; he said he would like VW and GE to ensure a zero percent failure rate. Jesse Sandole spoke against the GNA. Anastasia Lennon of the New Bedford Light asked about the inspection of

blades both installed and uninstalled and how much debris has been recovered to date. Mr. Martella responded that they are being thorough and over time will inspect each blade. Chair Mohr asked that the Town be kept apprised of progress. Vallorie Oliver spoke on the incident and expressed concern about the VW project and with the regulatory agencies that approved the project. Mr. Smith reiterated that Vineyard Wind is committed to cleaning up the debris. Bruce Mandel spoke on concerns about the blade failure incident and asked when the automated AMDS lighting system will be activated. Mary Chalk asked about water quality testing and said the beaches should be closed until the clean-up is complete. Mr. Nuss said there is no timeline on the water testing but they know they need to move fast. Chair Mohr and Dr. MacNab explained the complicated process of water testing. Donna Martino spoke on the GNA and asked the Board to reconsider it. Mike Jacobs spoke against the VW project. Amy DiSibio spoke against the VW project and questioned the emergency notification protocol. Andrew Lowell spoke about water quality testing. Dr. MacNab noted that water quality testing is complex for a situation like this and could take some time. Heather Mann spoke on the issue of blade inspections.

Dr. MacNab left the meeting at 7:53 Pm; he returned at 7:55 PM.

Mr. Martella responded. Bonnie Brady of the long Island Commercial Fishing Association asked several questions about the root cause analysis.

Ms. Holdgate left the meeting at 7:57 PM; she returned at 8:00 PM.

M.W. Monahan asked questions about VW and GE Vernova projects taking place along the east coast. Mr. Martella said VW is the only off-shore wind turbine project that GE is involved in at this time. Suzanne Gerardi asked about the size of the perimeter around the damaged turbine and any other turbines at risk. Mr. Smith responded. Ms. Gerardi asked about the receipt of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Chair Mohr said she also has concerns about the late release of the MSDS. Cliff Carroll, speaking again asked several additional questions about potential oil leaks. Christina Kramer spoke against offshore windfarms. Bruce Mandel spoke on the need for water quality testing. Vallorie Oliver urged people to visit the Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management (BOEM) website and look at the VW plans. Ellen Ray spoke on information being made available to the public on the VW project and asked some specific questions about oil and blade materials. She also questioned the GNA terms, including how any funding received has been spent. Mr. Fee stated that there seems to be misunderstanding about the GNA and that there is much more to it that is being represented by public comments. He said the Town has no control over whether or not offshore wind farms are constructed and the GNA was a way to reduce the impact of the VW project, as well as receive funds for various community purposes. He suggested that state representatives be invited to a Board meeting to explain their role as well. Jesse Sandole again said the "project should be shut down". Ms. DiSibio said the GNA put the Town in a position that it must support this project and "handcuffs" the Town from pushing back.

XII. SELECT BOARD'S REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Committee Reports. There were no committee reports.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fee moved adjournment at 8:21 PM; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; all in favor, so voted.

Approved the 7th day of August 2024

**SELECT BOARD
JULY 24, 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. 2. Committee Vacancy Applicants - Round 2 – Updated; Committee applications
- III. 3. Conservation Commission Vacancy Appointment Timeline
- IV. 1. Response to comments from 6/25/2024 Joint Select Board/Board of Health meeting re: PFAS
- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 7/17/2024
- VII. 4. Pending Contracts spreadsheet; Airport Grant Assurance - South Apron Expansion (AIP); Airport Grant Assurance - South Apron Expansion (BIL)
- VIII. 1. Conservation Commission member resignation letter; ConCom membership
- IX. 1. AIS re: Parcel T-1, Masquetuck St yard sale; Purchase & Sale Agreement; Quitclaim Deed; Land Court Plan No. 40795-B; Settlement Statement; Grant of One Big Beach Easement dated 12/26/2007; Coastal Resilience Evaluation; 35 Nonantum Ave Deed; Surfside Properties LLC Certificate of Title; Town Certificate of Title for Parcel T-1; Plan No. 2009-24; Land Court Order
- X. 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 – 42 Monohansett Rd; Article 15 map; Evaluation of Article 15; Mooney letter of opposition; Gasbarro letter of opposition; Surfside Association letter of opposition; Letter from Stephen Maury; Gasbarro follow-up letter 7/23/2024
- XI. 1. Email from State re: Wind Turbine failure; Vineyard Wind Blade Event – Initial Environmental Analysis; Link to GE Vernova – Vineyard Wind Turbine Blade Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Statement of the Town of Nantucket Select Board Regarding Vineyard Wind Blade Failure
July 24, 2024

The Town of Nantucket Select Board is alarmed by the blade failure at Vineyard Wind 1. We are deeply concerned about the safety, environmental, and economic impacts of this catastrophe on our local residents and visitors to the island.

The Select Board is committed to holding Vineyard Wind and GE, the manufacturer of the turbine blades, accountable. We demand 100% transparency from Vineyard Wind and GE about exactly what occurred during the blade failure and exactly what chemicals and materials are in the debris that has washed up on our beaches and remains in the water column around Nantucket.

Vineyard Wind must implement comprehensive measures to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future, and it is imperative that full restitution is provided for the damage caused. Town representatives will meet with the company next week to establish a process for reimbursing the community for costs and damages sustained as a result of the accident and recovery efforts.

We are also demanding answers and better coordination from our state and federal partners, who have regulatory responsibilities to keep Nantucket island and our ecosystem safe from such incidents in the future and who must ensure that proper safety measures, manufacturing standards, oversight, and emergency plans are in place.

This emergency has also revealed the inadequacy of Vineyard Wind's coordination and communication required by the Good Neighbor Agreement. Although the Town has done its part to honor our obligations, we intend to renegotiate terms of the Agreement in light of this accident.