

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of August 7, 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 5:30 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.

Operations Administrator Erika Mooney announced two public information sessions being held by the Town on Wednesday, August 14:

- The Lily Pond Restoration Project from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Sewer Department Meeting Room, 81 South Shore Road
- Surfside Area Transportation Improvements Project at 5:00 PM at the PSF Community Room, 4 Fairgrounds Road and by Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86786554245?pwd=x3vWcO24nna1lwkh0baQOOFcx5XH5b.1>

A video regarding the NOAA Vessel Strike Rule was shown on the screen. It can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POTwap-gLMM>.

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. Ms. 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. No Select Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 (Summer Schedule).

5. Select Board Announcements/Comments.

Chair Mohr thanked Senator Julian Cyr for helping get the sunset on PFAS on fire fighter gear passed.

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

There were no follow-up comments.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan Perry commended a local "PFAS Action Group" for holding a recent forum on PFAS, along with several local citizens who have contributed public sharing of their PFAS experiences.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, WARRANTS AND PENDING CONTRACTS

Ms. Mooney asked the Select Board to table approval of the minutes of July 23, 2024 at 12:00 PM, July 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM and July 29, 2024 at 4:00 PM. Ms. Mooney noted amendments to the pending contracts which struck the contract for Lease for Locals as that is its own agenda item, and the six contracts with E.F. & Associates, Inc. for Our Island Home. Mr. Fee moved approval of items VII 1 – 3, only approving minutes of July 24, 2024; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; all in favor, so voted.

1. Approval of Minutes of July 23, 2024 at 12:00 PM; July 24, 2024 at 5:30 PM; July 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM; July 29, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

2. Approval of Payroll Warrants for August 4, 2024.

3. Approval of Treasury Warrants for July 31, 2024; August 7, 2024.

4. Approval of Pending Contracts for August 7, 2024 - as Set Forth on the Spreadsheet Identified as Exhibit 1, Which Exhibit is Incorporated Herein by Reference. Mr. Dixon recused himself from the Interfaith Council contract vote. Ms. Holdgate moved to approve the Interfaith Council contract; seconded by Mr. Fee; so voted 4-0. Dr. MacNab moved approval of all contracts, except the aforementioned; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; all in favor, so voted.

VIII. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS/REPORTS

1. Town Clerk: Request for Approval of Warrant for September 3, 2024 State Primary. Ms. Holdgate moved to approve the Warrant for the September 3, 2024 State Primary; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

2. Vineyard Wind Update; Participation by State and Federal Agency Representatives and State Legislative Delegation. Chair Mohr reviewed how she intends to structure this agenda item. State Senator Julian Cyr

read a prepared statement (attached) in which he expressed disappointment with the Vineyard Wind (VW) response to the wind turbine blade failure several weeks ago and urged them to examine their emergency protocols, emphasizing the impact on the Island. He read a supplemental statement from Representative Dylan Fernandes (attached), who could not be present tonight. Senator Cyr added a short legislative update on recently enacted legislation specific to Nantucket.

Chair Mohr requested that the various representatives present respond to a list of questions pertinent to their jurisdictions, which they were provided in advance. David Diamond, Deputy Chief for Atlantic Operations, Office of Renewable Energy Programs at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) explained his role and that of his agency and indicated he will respond to the questions as best he can. Cheri Hunter, Renewables Energy Operations Director at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) explained her role and that of her agency and reviewed the actions BSEE has taken regarding the blade failure, to date. She thanked the Board for inviting her to attend this meeting. Ms. Hunter read several of the questions provided by the Town, and answered them. Stephanie Vail-Muse, Regional Energy Coordinator at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Northeast Region introduced herself and reviewed the role of her agency and the endangered species which it monitors on and around Nantucket. Andy Lipsky, Offshore Wind Ecology Branch, Northeast Fisheries Science Center at the National Oceanic Administration (NOAA) Fisheries reviewed his role and that of his agency. He said he provided a letter to VW/GE Vernova last week with recommendations, which he will share with the Board, and engaged in emergency consultation with BOEM regarding endangered species. Mr. Diamond said BOEM's approval of VW included several conditions for emergency response plans, including blade failure. He spoke on and addressed several of the questions. Dr. MacNab inquired about industry standards and how they are defined, stating that he has a concern about the relative newness of the blade that failed. Ms. Hunter responded saying there are international standards that are followed. Dr. MacNab asked about the standards specific to this new type of blade. Ms. Hunter deferred to GE. Roger Martella of GE Vernova said the blade design is not a new design but the size is a new application. Dr. MacNab asked about preventing damage to the environment. Mr. Lipsky responded saying his role is to provide expert advice to BOEM and BSEE about avoiding impacts to the environment and species. Dr. MacNab commented that without a wind farm, there would not be an environmental issue. Mr. Fee asked about acceptable levels of failure; and, asked who the Town ultimately goes to in a situation like this to make sure it does not happen again. Mr. Diamond responded, as did Ms. Hunter. Ms. Hunter indicated that this incident will be learned from, and processes and procedures strengthened as a result. Chair Mohr and Mr. Fee both inquired about "triggers" that could indicate a failed project. Mr. Diamond responded, stating that there are multiple decision points for such assessments. Ms. Holdgate asked what agency would be responsible for halting the project completely. Ms. Hunter stated that BSEE has authority to do that, at least temporarily, and has done so temporarily at this time for the VW project. Ms. Holdgate reiterated her questions. Ms. Hunter said that there is input from various federal agencies to ensure that all terms and conditions are met and that it is BSEE's role to ensure complete compliance. She said that non-compliance would depend on severity. Seong Kim, Assistant Director for Strategic Engagement at BSEE stated that it would be BSEE that would be responsible for shutting down a project entirely and explained penalty and enforcement actions. She stated that there is not an "acceptable level of failure" as asked by Mr. Fee and emphasized that it would be more of a learning from failure situation. Mr. Dixon asked about the root cause analysis reviewed by GE Vernova with the Board at a prior Board meeting on this matter. Ms. Kim responded and said BSEE is doing its own independent investigation as well. Dr. MacNab asked if there are pre-determined criteria that would be used to end a project. Mr. Diamond responded and explained that different agencies have different criteria for something like that but that BOEM does have the authority to suspend or end leases. Chair Mohr requested that the Town be notified of and/or have input on any changes to safety or other

permitting requirements, before the project is allowed to restart. Mr. Diamond said that those issues are generally posted online for comment. Chair Mohr said that her question is more of a statement, and that since Nantucket bore the brunt of the recent failure, it would be expected that the Island have input. Vallorie Oliver spoke on stopping the project. Chair Mohr requested that anyone speaking to public comment identify where they are from, as she would prefer to keep comments to people from Nantucket. Cliff Carroll said that he is from Barnstable and has a business connection to Nantucket. He asked questions as to the specifics of this failure and as to other possible failures such as an oil spill and response plans. He also asked that with the bonding waived, how would a contractor be held responsible. Mr. Diamond responded with regard to the oil spill response plan, and said that he cannot comment on changes to response to the blade failure because the response is not yet complete. Mr. Lipsky supplemented the explanation from Mr. Diamond and said that different agencies would be responsible for different emergencies, based on the nature of the emergency. Ms. Hunter stated that with respect to prior questions from Board members, "there is no acceptable level of risk". Mr. Diamond spoke further on the modification of terms and conditions, which are developed based on the nature of an incident. Dr. MacNab asked if the Town could be provided with any recommendations that come out of this review. Veronica Bonet asked a series of questions that she said she had intended to ask Senator Cyr before he left the meeting. She asked several questions related to emergency response. Ms. Hunter responded and said she will have to get back to the Board on some of the specifics as she does not have those on-hand right now. Bill Grieder stated that this incident is a "wake up call" for offshore wind projects. Amy DiSibio scolded federal officials for not coming to Nantucket sooner to address the blade failure incident. She commented further on the incident and the response to it. She asked about an expected storm on the way later in the week and if the turbines can withstand a hurricane. Roger Martella of GE Vernova explained that the turbines can withstand a hurricane. Bruce Mandel commented that he has not detected who is in charge of this incident and asked if there is a single individual in charge. Chair Mohr said that question has been asked in different ways, and it seems that answer is that it is a multi-agency responsibility, unless one of the federal agencies could point to a specific individual. Clifford Williams asked about studies on wind turbines. Andy Lowell asked for water quality testing. Mr. Lipsky responded. Peter Burke spoke on the possibility of adding permit revocation to the terms and conditions of operation, in the event of future failure(s). Ms. Kim said that they are not ready to commit to change the terms and conditions at this time but will take this recommendation into consideration. Diane Coombs spoke permit conditions. Peter Kaizer spoke on the harm of offshore wind farms on whales. Chair Mohr reminded Mr. Kaizer of the 3-minute speaking limit. Christopher Lauzon, of Barnstable spoke critically in response to the incident. Megan Perry spoke against offshore wind projects. Chair Mohr asked the state officials present to speak on water quality analysis. Dr. Wendy Heiger-Bernays, Chief of the Research Division at the Office of Research and Standards at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) spoke on what her agency does and how it reviews impactful environmental events. She spoke further on the information that will be gathered and stated that it will be transparently shared. She said that any hazardous materials that may have come from the blade failure would most likely be undetectable because of the dilution of the ocean, currents and tides. She said her agency is ready to support the Town with water quality studies and to assess the impacts of the failure. Dr. Chrissy Petitpas, Shellfish Program Leader at the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) spoke on the scope of assistance her agency could provide; and, on resources her agency has provided to the Town's shellfish propagation staff in the past. She explained that many emerging contaminants that might have gone into the ocean as a result of the blade incident do not yet have established standards and risks. She said they are not advising any behavioral changes with respect to the consumption of shellfish by the public. Dan Pronk commented on whale deaths and causes of whale deaths. Mr. Lipsky responded that a different division of NOAA, the Office of Protective Resources, deals with this and it is very difficult to determine injuries of dead whales but that the science in interactions is developing. Mr. Martella provided a

status report on the root cause analysis of the failed blade and the remaining pieces still hanging from the turbine, as well as corrective measures being put into place. He also spoke on the environmental assessment. Mr. Fee stated he views this incident as a “warning” and asked about permitting and the federal agencies making sure there is sufficient capacity to provide necessary monitoring for the hundreds more turbines that are planned. Dr. MacNab thanked the officials who attended and said he is disappointed that more higher level officials did not attend, including the Island’s elected federal representatives. Chair Mohr closed this matter for the night and indicated where people may find additional information.

3. Moderator: Town Meeting Process Review. Moderator Sarah F. Alger urged people to read a document entitled “Town Meeting Rules and Procedures”, which is available online. She noted that many questions she is asked, are answered in that document. She explained the difference between warrant articles and motions, noting that this is often a source of confusion. She explained how the scope of an article is determined. She also clarified the various aspects of Town Meeting that she finds to be the most controversial or questioned. Mr. Dixon asked how a motion to reconsider works. Ms. Alger explained. She continued to explain how amendments are made; as well as the nature of motions. She reviewed the time limitation rules. She said it is very helpful when sponsors of articles, particularly Town officials, are able to explain the purpose of articles prior to debate. Chair Mohr thanked Ms. Alger for her explanations.

4. Housing Office:

a) Affordable Housing Trust: Request for Authorization of Grant Funding up to \$450,000 to Housing Nantucket for Lease to Locals Program. Housing Director Kristie Ferrantella explained the request and reviewed the parameters of the proposed program. She made some additional recommendations. Mr. Fee moved approval as recommended by Ms. Ferrantella; seconded by Mr. Dixon. Mr. Dixon further elaborated on the development of the program and what considerations went into it. On the motion: all in favor, so voted.

b) Affordable Housing Trust Quarterly Report. Chair Mohr stated that this will be tabled to a future agenda.

IX. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

There was no Town Manager’s report.

X. SELECT BOARD’S REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Review/Adoption of Select Board Comments to September 17, 2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. The Board made no comments.

2. Committee Reports.

Mr. Fee spoke on a Downtown Resilience Planning Community Open House that happened tonight.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fee moved adjournment at 8:35 PM; seconded by Ms. Holdgate; all in favor, so voted.

Approved the 21st day of August 2024

**SELECT BOARD
AUGUST 7, 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; Committee applications
- III. 3. Conservation Commission Vacancy Appointment Timeline
- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 7/24/2024
- VII. 4. Pending Contracts spreadsheet
- VIII. 1. AIS re: State Primary Warrant; 9/3/2024 State Primary Warrant
- VIII. 4a. AIS re: Lease for Locals program; L2L Presentation to AHT dated 3/18/2024; L2L Presentation to AHT dated 6/11/2024; L2L Presentation to AHT dated 6/25/2024; L2L Presentation to AHT dated 7/9/2024; L2L Guidelines; Draft grant agreement
- VIII. 4b. AIS re: AHT update; AHT Quarterly Report
- X. 1. Draft 9/17/2024 ATM Warrant as of 8/6/2024

From: [Cyr, Julian \(SEN\)](#)
To: [Thomas Dixon](#)
Cc: [Erika Mooney](#); [Hennessy, Colin \(SEN\)](#); [Patron, Kathleen \(SEN\)](#); [Holcomb, Michael \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Re: Text of Sen. Cyr's remarks tonight for our Select Board minutes?
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:58:48 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Tom!

Erika — text of my comments is pasted below.

Cheers,
Julian

Vineyard Wind & GE Blade Failure

- Good evening. I would like to thank the Town of Nantucket for its work in addressing and responding to the Vineyard Wind and GE blade failure.
- Select Board Chair Brooke Mohr, the entire Board, Town Manager Libby Gibson, and the entire town staff should be commended for their display of leadership and calmness during this trying incident at the busiest time of year.
- Manufacturing errors like the one that led to this disaster are unacceptable, and the lack of communication directly after the blade failure is alarming and grossly substandard for two companies who should aim to be long-term good neighbors with the town and the region.
- I was notified of the blade failure on Monday evening, July 15, the same day as the town, which was nearly 48 hours after the blade failed and debris began to fall into the ocean.
- Two days without notice is an unacceptable length of time. It put the town and various agencies who could support response in a more difficult position than what could have been.
- I am deeply disturbed by this lack of communication on the part of GE and Vineyard Wind and demand that they do better if they want the support of the town and the state going forward. It's not enough to simply check the box on a response plan.
- Since the moment we were notified time, I've been in regular contact with Nantucket officials as you have navigated this emergency.
- And in the days that followed the failure, my office and I communicated continuously with our Congressional delegation, especially Congressman Keating, as well as relevant federal agencies to understand the cause of the failure and the initial lack of communication that ensued.

- In partnership, we pushed to ensure that there was improved coordination between the federal government, the state, and the Town to address the impacts of this incident, especially after a halting start.
- I am encouraged that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BESE) has designated a Federal Liaison Officer to ensure prompt and effective communication and coordination between BESE, other involved federal agencies, the state, the town, tribal governments, and all involved.
- GE and Vineyard Wind must be accountable to the Town of Nantucket, and all other communities impacted by this failure.
- The removal of debris must be thorough and absolute. The Town of Nantucket must be made whole — and then some — for all expenses incurred in response to the blade failure and its clean up.
- Federal agencies, Vineyard Wind, GE, and any future parties must have an emergency response plan that considers contingencies for blade failure and its aftermath. The current response is based on an oil spill plan that does not meet the unique challenges we are facing with this blade failure.
- An after action is also warranted as to why the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Response Committee did not respond immediately on Saturday evening and did not communicate with Island officials as outline in the response plan. This is supposed to be a 24/7 emergency line, and the breakdown in communication and then subsequent lack of communication with the Town of Nantucket must be reviewed.
- Going forward, we need an organized response plan that goes beyond just removal of debris. We need protocols that hold companies accountable and strengthen lines of communication across our community and with the organizations that are supporting the clean up.
- So many of us have been proponent of renewable energy, including the potential of offshore wind, because of the existential threat that the climate crisis and rising seas poses to our very way of life on Nantucket, on Martha's Vineyard, and Cape Cod. New England waters are among the fastest warming and most rapidly rising in the world.
- But let me be clear: our pursuit of these solutions must be balanced with an unwavering commitment to the communities that host these projects. Offshore wind companies must act as good neighbors; anything less than full respect and transparency towards local communities is simply unacceptable.
- Tonight, federal authorities and state agencies, as well as GE and Vineyard Wind, are here to provide answers to the Town and its residents about the causes

and the aftermath of this failure. I am especially appreciative of the state officials who have taken the time to be on island to attend this meeting. I look forward to hearing from them tonight.

Julian Cyr
State Senator
Cape and Islands District
State House, Room 111
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-1570
Pronouns: He/Him/His
www.SenatorCyr.com

From: Thomas Dixon <tdixon@nantucket-ma.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 7:08:28 PM

To: Patron, Kathleen (SEN) <Kathleen.Patron@masenate.gov>; Cyr, Julian (SEN) <Julian.Cyr@masenate.gov>; Holcomb, Michael (SEN) <Michael.Holcomb@masenate.gov>

Cc: Erika Mooney <EMooney@nantucket-ma.gov>

Subject: Text of Sen. Cyr's remarks tonight for our Select Board minutes?

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tdixon@nantucket-ma.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hey all,

Would you be able to forward the Senator's remarks from tonight so Erika can put in our minutes, please?

Many thanks!

-Tom

Thomas M. Dixon
Nantucket Select Board • County Commissioners
Town and County of Nantucket
16 Broad Street
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554
[Click: SB agendas, schedule, minutes, etc.](#)
<http://www.youtube.com/@nantucketgov>

From: [Thomas Dixon](#)
To: [Brooke Mohr](#)
Cc: [Erika Mooney](#)
Subject: Fw: Statement for Select Board Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 1:44:48 PM

Hi Brooke and Erika,

Not sure if Dylan let you know directly that he can't make it tonight but here's his statement if you want to put in the SB packet, etc.

Thanks,

-Tom

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dylan Fernandes <dylan1fernandes@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Statement for Select Board Meeting
Date: August 7, 2024 at 10:32:59 AM EDT
To: Charity Grace Mofsen <charitygrace.mofsen@gmail.com>, Julian Cyr <julian.cyr@gmail.com>, Tom Dixon <tmd@thomasdixon.com>

I can't make it tonight but here is a statement

I am deeply concerned about the recent failure of the General Electric turbine off the coast of Nantucket. Ensuring the safety and reliability of our renewable energy infrastructure is paramount for the protection of our environment and communities.

We need to ensure public and environmental safety and we are calling for:

1. **A Comprehensive Investigation:** An investigation must be conducted to determine the cause of the failure and assurances need to be made that it will never happen again.
2. **Enhanced Safety Protocols:** There needs to be a review and enhancement of the safety protocols and maintenance schedules for all offshore wind turbines. Additionally, emergency management plans must be revised so that island officials are notified immediately. Lack of timely notification is unacceptable.
3. **Community Engagement:** Regular updates must be provided to the public, ensuring transparency and accountability

4. **Remediation:** General Electric must be held accountable for the damage caused and there must be a full reimbursement to the town and other impacted parties.

Nantucket is a unique island community that must be protected and more must be done to ensure the health and safety of island residents and the environment.