

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of July 29, 2025 at 9:30 AM. The remote meeting took place using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Dawn Hill, Thomas Dixon, Matt Fee, Dr. Malcolm MacNab and Brooke Mohr.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

II. PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING VINEYARD WIND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Select Board and Cultural Heritage Partners Read Prepared Statement (9:30 AM to 10:00 AM). Chair Hill, Ms. Mohr and Greg Werkheiser of Cultural Heritage Partners read statements attached to these minutes.

2. Questions and Answers with Invited Press (10:00 AM to 10:30 AM).

Jason Graziadei/Nantucket Current asked why the Town is not exiting the “Good Neighbor Agreement” (GNA) with Vineyard Wind (VW) and how the GNA is a “legal tool” for the Town as described in the statements. Mr. Werkheiser responded and said the GNA enables the Town to maintain an ability to legally enforce contractual obligations. Ms. Mohr added that exiting does not provide the Town with any avenue to prevent any offshore wind projects or negotiate any concessions with regard to their impact.

Anastasia Lennon/New Bedford Light asked how the payments referenced in the Town’s statements will be enforced. Mr. Werkheiser responded and explained the Town’s expectations for a response from VW on its payment demands.

Kaie Quigley/Inquirer and Mirror asked if VW does not agree, will the Town accept less than it has demanded. Ms. Mohr said that at the very least the Town wants to engage in a dialogue with VW and reviewed the Town’s several attempts to initiate that without success noting that this press conference is “step one”.

Tim Ferry/Recharge News asked about Cultural Heritage Partners (CHP)’s involvement in other offshore wind projects and if the “end game” is to stop the VW project. Mr. Werkheiser noted that the Town is in no way “anti-Clean Energy” or “anti-offshore wind” but does expect developers to comply with requirements and law. Chair Hill spoke on the Town’s concerns with the views, environmental concerns and initial visualizations that did not accurately represent what has been built, and associated impacts on the Town’s economy.

Chris Perry/Nantucket Current asked Ms. Hill if she would sign the GNA today, knowing what she knows now. Chair Hill stated she would not and cited several reasons.

Leah Willingham/Associated Press asked how Nantucket was selected for this project initially and how much influence communities have over allowing or not allowing offshore wind projects. Mr. Werkheiser explained when/how offshore wind lease areas were developed by the federal government. He reviewed how the GNA was initiated and developed and noted it provided the Town with commitments that it would otherwise not have had.

Mr. Graziadei noted that some of the issues the Town has brought forward have been known for some time and asked again how the GNA provides a legal tool for the Town. Mr. Werkheiser responded and explained

that negotiations take time, that the legal strategy involved more than one “avenue” and he cannot divulge the details of it due to the nature of the issue.

Mr. Quigley questioned the specifics of what the Town is demanding of VW, as well as the monetary compensation. Mr. Werkheiser responded and said the details will be in the list of demands attached to the press release which will be issued following the press conference.

Dean Geddes/Inquirer and Mirror asked if litigation and/or exiting the GNA are “on the table” if VW does not respond to the Town’s demands. Mr. Werkheiser said the Town will reserve all of its rights and options to act at that time. He added that the Town hopes VW will be responsive.

Mr. Ferry asked under what law the GNA is established. Mr. Werkheiser explained it is a contract between the Town and VW that can be enforced by a court of law.

Mr. Perry asked Mr. Fee if he would have done anything differently today with respect to signing the GNA, knowing what is known now. Mr. Fee said that “hindsight is 20-20” and given what was known at the time, he signed it. Mr. Perry asked if he knew what he knew today would he have signed it. Mr. Fee said no and added that is not a realistic scenario.

Ms. Lennon asked about a comment Ms. Mohr made about VW’s response to the Town’s attempts at engagement with them. Ms. Mohr responded.

Ms. Willingham asked about the positive impacts vs risks of offshore wind and asked what specifics the Town would want the federal government to consider with respect to risks. Ms. Mohr responded and said turbine blade failure provisions/response clearly outlined in permitting, as well as lighting mitigations at night and risks to the Town’s viewscape, none of which was considered in the permitting by the federal government. Ms. Hill added that the Town was told the only area that it could request relief from was the visual impact and spoke further on what was ultimately approved, which was moving the front row of turbines back by one row. She said that no information was ever provided to the Town about the lighting impact that has now been realized.

Mr. Werkheiser said that the time for the conference has concluded and reiterated that additional information will be released momentarily.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dixon moved adjournment at 10:36 AM; seconded by Ms. Mohr; by roll call vote: Chair Hill – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes, Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; so voted.

Approved the 6th day of August, 2025.

**SELECT BOARD
JULY 29, 2025 – 9:30 AM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- II. 1. Press conference script; background brief; press release; answers to anticipated questions

NANTUCKET DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY FROM VINEYARD WIND, BOEM, and BSEE

Script | Press Conference – July 29, 2025

Dawn Hill

A. Intro and Logistics

Good morning! I am Dawn Hill, Chair of the Select Board.

Thank you for joining us for this press conference, called by the Select Board of the Town and County of Nantucket. All Select Board members are in attendance.

Leading us today will be Brooke Mohr, member and former Chair, and she is joined by Greg Werkheiser from the law firm of Cultural Heritage Partners, which serves as special counsel for offshore wind matters.

This press conference is being broadcast live [\[details\]](#).

Shortly after we conclude this morning, Town staff will provide three things to participating journalists: the Zoom recording, a press release, and a detailed background brief that covers each of the topics we address today.

Finally, we anticipate having plenty of time for press Q&A this morning. After the initial presentation, we invite you to either raise your virtual hand to be called on or post your question in the chat.

Brooke....

A. Purpose of Nantucket's Press Conference

Brooke Mohr

Thank you, Dawn.

We are here today for a very specific purpose—to demand that Vineyard Wind change its conduct.

This morning Nantucket is making public 15 specific demands that, when agreed to by Vineyard Wind, will bring it into compliance with its obligations and its public commitments.

We invite Vineyard Wind to respond to the full set of demands within two weeks, which is August 12, 2025.

This is not the first time Vineyard Wind has seen many of these demands, so two weeks is plenty of time for them to confirm their agreement or to explain publicly *why they should not* be held accountable in these basic ways.

Vineyard Wind has repeatedly failed to meet three fundamental obligations to our community:

- First, by refusing to timely and fully **communicate** critical details about their massive industrial project just off our coast, they have kept Nantucket and its residents in the dark, which endangers the public and undermines trust.
- Second, due to lengthy delays in their activation of a required **lighting reduction system** on their turbines, they have been polluting our night sky with dozens of blinking red lights for several years.
- Third, by failing to timely include Nantucket in new **emergency response** planning in the aftermath of the blade failure, they increase the likelihood that they will again be unprepared for a disaster, and they leave our community dangerously vulnerable to future project failures.

When confronted about these failures, Vineyard Wind has pointed the finger at everyone but themselves: they blame subcontractors, they blame GE Vernova, they blame federal regulators, they blame Nantucket, they even blame the ocean. That is not leadership. Nantucket provided Vineyard Wind half a dozen chances to adopt protocols for greater accountability and they failed to step up, so now those demands will be public.

C. THE CBA AND COMMUNICATIONS FAILURES

Let me turn to Greg Werkheiser to explain the grounds for Nantucket's expectations of Vineyard Wind.

Greg Werkheiser

Good morning. Five years ago, the federal government was on the verge of approving permits for Vineyard Wind over the objections of Nantucket's government, which felt that the potential adverse impacts to Nantucket were being underestimated.

There was no *stopping* the project because federal law does not give localities the power of the veto, and because the U.S. president, Massachusetts' governor, and other federal and state officials were pushing hard for the project. So, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, was full steam ahead.

But the Town was able to exert enough pressure to bring Vineyard Wind to the negotiating table just before BOEM gave the final greenlight. The Town's goal was to secure commitments from the company about how it would behave toward Nantucket—commitments that were *greater* than the federal government was going to require.

The result of the negotiation was a Community Benefit Agreement. The CBA requires clear, proactive communication from Vineyard Wind at and about every stage of the project's development and deployment.

We are here today because the company has repeatedly failed to fulfill the communications obligations of the CBA, during times of both regular operations and during times of emergencies.

Specifically, Vineyard Wind must coordinate with Nantucket regarding all aspects of its Projects. At paragraph 4.2 of the CBA. "Vineyard Wind shall coordinate with the Nantucket Parties with regard to the development, permitting, construction, and operations and maintenance of the Projects..."

Vineyard Wind must communicate timely and frequently so that Nantucket can keep the public well-informed. At paragraph 6.1 of the CBA. "The Parties agree to communicate with one another on a regular basis...."

And at paragraph 5.2, Nantucket is charged with ensuring that Nantucket residents and visitors have opportunities to learn about and engage in the Projects, and to address their concerns, which obviously cannot happen without honest and timely communication of information from Vineyard Wind.

Brooke...

Brooke Mohr

You, the press, are already familiar with some of Vineyard Wind's more egregious communications failures. A reminder of just a few such failures:

When one of the Vineyard Wind project blades suffered a catastrophic explosion last summer, sending much of the 50 tons of fiberglass and foam into the ocean, Nantucket didn't find out about it until three days later, as debris was already beginning to wash ashore.

In response to criticism about this lack of timely communication, which heightened the danger to our beachgoing visitors, fishermen, environment, and businesses, Vineyard Wind CEO Klauss Moeller promised it would not happen again; indeed, he promised that if there was any indication of a potential emergency Nantucket would hear about it immediately. And yet, several months later, the turbine with the disintegrated blade was struck by lightning. Vineyard Wind sat on the information until the Town heard about it from other sources.

There are many more failures to communicate. While Vineyard Wind has presumably engaged in new emergency planning in the 13 months since the blade failure, they have failed to communicate about it with Nantucket. We are told that they have slow-walked reports on the analysis of environmental effects of the blade failure. They have not accurately or timely explained delays in their activation of the aircraft lighting system that is required by the CBA to reduce the turbine lights that have now been polluting Nantucket's night sky for years. The list goes on.

Over the past year, when the Town demanded compensation for economic damages to the Town and its residents from the blade failure, GE Vernova engaged in substantive conversations about addressing the Town's needs. Vineyard Wind, on the other hand, failed to respond to the Town's reasonable calls for improved communications and emergency protocols, many of which you will hear about today.

Earlier this month, the Town secured a settlement with GE Vernova for compensation for the damage from the blade failure. This was important to finalize to provide the community with resolution and our business owners with some relief. But in that settlement the Town did not cede its rights to hold Vineyard Wind accountable for failing in any of its ongoing legal obligations, including the CBA's requirement of timely and transparent communication.

Since the immediate aftermath of the blade failure and since the last presidential election, Vineyard Wind's leadership has essentially gone into hiding. We believe that this is out of fear that by being visible they will draw more attention to the project's numerous struggles and will draw the scrutiny of the new Administration, which has ordered a review of offshore wind permitting practices. Hiding is not a solution to their problems, in fact, as evidenced by today's press conference, it has the opposite of their intended effect.

Greg...

Greg Werkheiser

And so, today, Nantucket is making public its demands for new and specific communications protocols to address Vineyard Wind's record of poor engagement. Nantucket makes these demands consistent with the CBA Section 5.2, in which Nantucket agreed to provide Vineyard Wind with advice and guidance as how best to engage with the Nantucket community. We will provide you the full list of our demands for improved information immediately following this press conference. But to summarize, simply:

- Nantucket expects **immediate alerts** about all safety issues to the appropriate Town officials.
- Nantucket expects **proactive reports** on the project's progress and problems, including regular presentations at public Select Board meetings.

- We expect timely and honest **answers to questions** posed by the Select Board, without any attempts to restrict the Board's sharing answers with the public.
- We expect **full access** to written materials provided to and from federal regulators, especially when those concerning emergencies impacting our community and natural resources.
- Finally, because these protocols are meaningless if they have no teeth, Nantucket demands financial compensation **to Nantucket for every time they fail to communicate according to these protocols.**

Brooke, is there anything else you'd like to say on the topic of communications before we move on to the next category of Vineyard Wind failures?

Brooke Mohr

Yes, just one important point, thank you. The value of the Community Benefit Agreement has been a hotly debated topic in our community. Withdrawal from the CBA would *weaken* the Town's position, effectively releasing Vineyard Wind from its obligations, including the obligations we have just detailed to keep Nantucket informed about all aspects of their projects. Keeping the CBA in place is the most effective legal tool Nantucket has. We believe that walking away from this Agreement would prove to be a symbolic gesture only that would not provide any additional legal recourse to reduce the effects of the projects on Nantucket.

D. ADLS FAILURES

Brooke Mohr

Thank you, and now we'd like to discuss another example of where Vineyard Wind is failing to fulfill the spirit of the CBA. Greg?

Greg Werkheiser

The night sky defines what it means to experience Nantucket. People come here from the world over to experience it. Part of the reason the United States Government designated Nantucket as a National Historic Landmark is due to our pristine night sky views, which, as everyone knows, are increasingly hard to experience from most places on earth. For years now, the night sky horizon as viewed from Nantucket has been polluted with dozens of constantly blinking red lights from Vineyard Wind's project. -

The CBA sought to address this concern by requiring that Vineyard Wind install aircraft detection lighting systems, or ADLS, which, the company promised, would reduce nighttime red light blinking from 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to only 4 hours a year. That's because the lights only come on when radar detects the need. We should note that it was Nantucket's leadership in negotiating for ADLS that contributed to ADLS becoming a standard requirement in offshore wind construction in the US.

Since January of 2024, our residents have dealt with dozens and dozens of red lights constantly blinking through the night sky. Vineyard Wind's explanations for delays between when turbines lights are turned on and when ADLS is activated to turn them off have been convoluted, inconsistent, and unsatisfactory. They have not met multiple targets for activation, blaming technical issues of partners and subcontractors. They have surely read the frequent concerns expressed by Town leaders and citizens in the articles that you write, and yet they have failed to come to a public meeting to explain the situation. That is not leadership.

I will note, Brooke, that Vineyard Wind should not use the fact that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, BSEE, shut them down during the blade investigation as an excuse for delays in ADLS activation. The shut down orders from BSEE did not preclude Vineyard Wind from doing the type of work required to activate ADLS.

Brooke Mohr

That's right, and that is why we are publicly demanding that Vineyard Wind take accountability for its failure to timely reduce turbine lighting and stop polluting Nantucket's night sky.

- First, Vineyard Wind and its partners or subcontractors should appear now before a public Select Board meeting to **explain the full history and plans of ADLS activation** to the community.
- Second, that Vineyard Wind **pay \$25,000 per turbine for each day that turbine lights are on without ADLS being active.**

Greg...

E. EMERGENCY PLANNING FAILURES

Greg Werkheiser

Finally, it has been over a year since the blade failure. Vineyard Wind has failed to involve Nantucket in whatever planning it is doing to be better prepared for future emergencies and disasters. CEO Klauss Moeller indicated to Brooke when she was Chair of the Select Board that Vineyard Wind was committed to partnering with Nantucket to use the lessons of that blade failure to advocate for debris response planning for the entire offshore wind industry. That has not happened.

In the CBA, Vineyard Wind committed to supporting and promoting what they said was a shared interest in protecting, restoring, and preserving the Nantucket's historic and cultural resources, and in coastal resiliency (#1, "Purpose of the Agreement"). Yet Vineyard Wind has never asked Nantucket to participate in developing new debris response plans. Yet the

experience of the community most impacted by the incident would be critical to developing effective plans.

Whatever process Vineyard Wind has for new emergency planning with federal regulatory agencies, it surely does not preclude early and substantive outreach to Nantucket to capture learnings from the blade failure while they are still fresh and before another incident.

Therefore, Nantucket is demanding an open emergency planning process from Vineyard Wind:

1. **First, initiate a public emergency planning evaluation process in the next 2 months** (that will be 15 months from the blade failure). The community should be able to know, review, and give feedback on how the company will handle another crisis.
2. Second, establish a **\$10 million emergency cleanup fund**, held in escrow, to guarantee that Nantucket taxpayers will never be forced to pay to clean up Vineyard Wind messes.
3. Third, agree to **permanently suspend new Vineyard Wind project phases** if any future incident Nantucket beaches or shuts down Nantucket's shellfish industry for 7 consecutive days or 14 total days in a 6-month period. And on this last demand, if Vineyard Wind does not agree to such a contingent suspension, Vineyard Wind should make clear just how much of a negative impact on Nantucket should be tolerated before suspension of the project is appropriate.

Brooke...

B. CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Brooke Mohr

When Vineyard Wind arrived in our community seven years ago, they made promises to the public, federal, and state governments, and to Nantucket. Our messages this morning are clear:

- To Vineyard Wind, we say "lead or leave." As the first industrial scale offshore wind development permitted in the United States, the entire offshore wind industry takes note of what you do or fail to do. If you treat your project's host community as an afterthought, you create a bad precedent for an industry that needs to succeed *in the right ways* to address climate change. Since the blade failure and the presidential election, your leadership has essentially gone into hiding. This is unacceptable. So today we say, either step up, or step out of our community and our waters.
- To Vineyard Wind's investors and to its owners—Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners--headquartered in Denmark, in partnership with Iberdrola--headquartered in Spain. Your "corporate responsibility" is not just a

slogan on your websites. It is a commitment you made to us, and we are demanding you uphold it.

- To the **federal regulatory agencies** charged with project oversight, specifically the Departments of the Interior and Justice, and the officials at BOEM and BSEE: You are the enforcers. Your mandate is to ensure these projects are built and operated properly and safely. We are here today to publicly ask you to do your job. We request that you use your full authority to demand that Vineyard Wind agree to the reasonable accountability measures Nantucket is outlining today. Your job is to look out for the interests of the American people. We expect you to do it.
- To our **elected federal leaders**: Senators Warren and Markey, and Congressman Keating. You pledged to support this community in ensuring this project develops responsibly with oversight. Now is the time to act on that pledge by publicly urging Vineyard Wind to agree to the accountability measures we set forth today.
- To our **state elected leaders**: Governor Healey, State Senator Cyr, and State Representative Moakley: Please stand with Nantucket. We need your voices to demand the accountability our community deserves.
- And finally, **members of the press here today**: We urge you to ask Vineyard Wind the hard questions. Ask Vineyard Wind why they are not fulfilling their commitments. Ask their investors if this is conduct they condone. And ask every elected official involved where they stand with respect to Nantucket's reasonable requests for accountability. The public deserves the full story.

Nantucket is taking a stand today, but we cannot do this alone. This moment calls for action from all parties who have a stake in this project's integrity. That includes Vineyard Wind's corporate owners, regulators, elected officials, and the media.

This is a test—of corporate responsibility, of regulatory oversight, and of political will. Nantucket is ready.

Thank you again for joining us today. We will now take questions, and I will turn it over to my colleagues to moderate.

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