

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2025. 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 Dawn E. Hill, Thomas Dixon, Matt Fee, Dr. Malcolm MacNab and Brooke Mohr.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hill 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 presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson reviewed the announcements.

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

2. Cape and Islands Suicide Prevention Coalition: Annual Request to Proclaim September 2025 “National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month” in the Town of Nantucket. Rachel Meriwether of Fairwinds Counseling Center read the proclamation. Ms. Mohr moved to adopt the proclamation; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

3. Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee: Annual Request to Proclaim September 2025 “Climate Change Awareness Month” in the Town of Nantucket. Sustainability Programs Manager Vince Murphy read the proclamation. Mr. Fee moved to adopt the proclamation; seconded by Ms. Mohr; all in favor, so voted.

4. Select Board Announcements/Comments. None.

IV. UPDATE ON PUBLIC COMMENT QUESTIONS FROM PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS (see <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/3564/> 2025) Chair Hill read the responses to the questions asked at the Board’s August 20th meeting, which were also shown on the screen.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leah Mojer commented on the negative impacts of the local deer population, especially with respect to food growing and public health concerns, including the newly emerging Lone Star tick.

Megan Perry said that she had questions three weeks ago under Public Comment that haven’t been answered. She stated that the Town website is not “user friendly”. She commented she has had public records requests outstanding for nearly one year. She commented on the Town’s lease with the Food Pantry.

Rebek Duhaime spoke on short-term rental registrations for 2026.

Emmy Kilvert asked for a response to a letter she read at a Board meeting on July 23, 2025.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, WARRANTS AND PENDING CONTRACTS

Ms. Mohr moved approval of items VII 1 – 4. Mr. Fee asked about a contract amendment with Weston and Sampson; Ms. Gibson responded. Mr. Fee commented that projects are too expensive and there should be ways to reduce costs. Ms. Mohr's motion was seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

1. Approval of August 20, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

2. Approval of Payroll Warrants for August 31, 2025.

3. Approval of Treasury Warrants for August 27, 2025; September 3, 2025.

4. Approval of Pending Contracts for September 10, 2025 - as Set Forth on the Spreadsheet Identified as Exhibit 1, Which Exhibit is Incorporated Herein by Reference.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Gift/Donation Acceptances: Fire Department. Mr. Dixon read the donor list, amount of the gifts/donations and purpose as noted in the Select Board agenda packet and moved to accept all gifts for their designated purpose, with thanks to the donors; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

IX. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS/REPORTS

1. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: Overview of Extended Deer Hunting Season on Nantucket 2025-2026. Martin Feehan, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife's Deer and Moose Biologist, reviewed a presentation as contained in the Board's agenda packet of an upcoming extension of the deer hunting season in Nantucket for primitive firearms to help reduce the size of deer herds on the island, which are considered over populated, as well as other hunting related measures intended to address the over population. Mr. Feehan spoke on the impacts of the deer population and spoke on how his agency manages deer abundance, along with statistics on hunting and deer density and the outreach and process the state used to make these changes. The new primitive firearms season will now go through January 31, 2026. Mr. Feehan spoke on a special hunt that occurred only on Nantucket in February 2005 and reviewed the differences between that event and what is now planned to proceed. Dr. MacNab thanked Mr. Feehan for the presentation and asked questions about the "goal" density with respect to tick control. Mr. Feehan responded. Amy Eldridge commented on the amount of building on the Island that is impacting deer habitat and forcing deer into places and areas they would not normally be. There were no further questions.

2. ElecComm: Request for Waiver of Town Noise Bylaw for National Grid Work from Monday, September 15, 2025 to Friday, October 10, 2025 from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM; Work Areas Include Easy Street, Coleman Court, Steamship Wharf, Candle Street Substation. Operations Administrator Erika Mooney reviewed the request, explained that this is part of National Grid's L1 work and the reason for some night work is to avoid impacts to the truck route to the Steamship Authority during the day. Mr. Fee moved to approve the request as presented; seconded by Dr. MacNab; all in favor, so voted.

3. Natural Resources Department: Review and Request for Acceptance of Eelgrass Management Plan. Shellfish and Aquatic Resources Manager Tara Riley reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board's agenda packet, noting this is the Town's first eelgrass management plan.

Chair Hill left the meeting at 6:24 PM; she returned at 6:27 PM.

Dr. MacNab asked about some of the data on a graph about eelgrass surveys. Ms. Riley responded. Dr. MacNab asked about nitrogen concentration levels and how they are set. Ms. Riley responded and noted those “standard levels” are set by the state. Dr. MacNab commended the report. Mr. Fee commented that there are other stressors to the system besides nitrogen.

Mr. Fee moved to accept the Eelgrass Management Plan as presented; seconded by Ms. Mohr; all in favor, so voted.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing to Consider Amendments to Town of Nantucket Regulations Chapter 260, Fishing and Shellfishing. Chair Hill opened the public hearing. Ms. Riley reviewed the proposed amendments to Chapter 260 regarding Shellfish Regulations, using a presentation as contained in the Board’s packet. Pennel Ames expressed concerns over the dredge weight restrictions being proposed, stating that he doesn’t think “it will work” and the fishermen should be “left alone”. Ms. Riley responded to Mr. Ames’s comments. Sharon Ames questioned the wording on scallop boxes. Ms. Riley clarified that the wording isn’t an issue, the issue is the size of the box must be to Town specifications. Ms. Ames asked about the return of a catch to water, following confiscation. Mr. Carlson responded. Ms. Ames asked further questions about how and where confiscated catches are held. Mr. Carlson responded. Some discussion followed about the confiscation of scallops and subsequent disposition. Andy Lowell, chair of the Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board, spoke in favor of the regulations and noted HSAB voted unanimously to support them and that in fact the regulations were discussed at least 30 meetings. Mr. Lowell spoke in support of Ms. Riley and commended her work. Some discussion followed on the dredge weight concern.

Ms. Mohr moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Dr. MacNab; all in favor, so voted.

Ms. Mohr moved to approve the amendments to Chapter 260 as recommended; seconded by Mr. Fee. Mr. Fee said he would like to understand that if issues arise about the dredge weight, it will be addressed. On the motion, all in favor, so voted.

XI. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

1. Monthly Departmental Report: Natural Resources Department. Mr. Carlson, Ms. Riley, and Mr. Murphy and Conservation Agent Will Dell’Erba reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board’s agenda packet.

2. Preliminary FY 2027 Proposed Capital Projects:

Ms. Gibson introduced this item.

a) Overview of FY 2027 Proposed Capital Projects. Finance Director Brian E. Turbitt reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board’s agenda packet. Some discussion followed about some of the projects.

b) Status of Harbor Master Building Project. Ms. Gibson introduced the item. Deputy Police Chief Charles Gibson, project manager for this project, reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board’s agenda packet. Some discussion followed. Ms. Hill, Mr. Dixon and Ms. Mohr spoke in favor of proceeding with the project as presented, with the understanding that a funding source needs to be secured. Mr. Fee

suggested that the Town property across the street be re-reviewed. Ms. Hill and Ms. Mohr spoke against that, citing the likelihood of additional delays, more funding and the loss of other municipal functions located across the street. The Board was in general agreement to proceed with the project as presented at the 2026 annual town meeting, if needed, for funding approval.

c) Overview of Proposed Town Employee Housing Capital Project Resubmittal. Ms. Gibson introduced the item. Housing Director Kristie Ferrantella reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board's agenda packet. Ms. Mohr spoke in favor of proceeding with the project as recommended. Mr. Fee concurred. Chair Hill spoke in favor as well. Mr. Dixon spoke in favor and added that this will also most likely come up at a meeting with the Board, Affordable Housing Trust and Planning Board on September 30, at which much of this will likely be discussed. Discussion followed as to the need for this project. Mr. Dixon asked about the School's involvement with employee housing. Ms. Ferrantella responded. Mr. Fee spoke on parking issues. The general consensus of the Board was to move forward with an Owner's Project Manager to move the project forward.

3. Review/Request for Endorsement of 2026 Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election Timeline. Ms. Gibson reviewed the proposed 2026 Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election timeline. Ms. Mohr moved to endorse the timeline as presented; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

XII. SELECT BOARD REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Vote to Expand Scope of African Meeting House Investigation Procurement Workgroup to Allow for Monitoring Progress of Investigation Review by LCG, Inc. Dr. MacNab reviewed the reasoning for this request, noting the group would like to have "input" going forward. Ms. Mohr said the firm conducting the investigation review has been procured and given the scope of work and that the idea is an independent investigation; she asked what role the workgroup would have. Dr. MacNab acknowledged that the group will not be conducting any part of the investigation. Mr. Fee asked what Town staff person is the contact for this project. Dr. MacNab said it is basically him. Discussion followed as to the procurement process. Mr. Turbitt reviewed the scope of work, again, noting that this is a review of the investigation, not a new investigation, and that the workgroup would like to be the point of contact for the firm. Some discussion followed as to how the investigation will proceed. Ms. Mohr said she would feel comfortable with the workgroup being available to answer specific questions from the firm, but she would be uncomfortable with the workgroup weighing in on the work the firm performs. Ms. Mooney clarified that the workgroup would not continue having regular meeting, it would only call a meeting if the firm has specific questions. Dr. MacNab said if the Select Board votes to allow the workgroup to continue, he would plan to hold a meeting next week to update the workgroup. Ms. Mooney suggested this be done by working on an email with staff to send to the workgroup to inform them.

Ms. Mohr moved to extend the duration of African Meeting House Investigation Procurement Workgroup for the express purpose of responding to inquiries of the firm (LCG, Inc.) for clarification on the intent and scope of the investigation only, and any report produced as work product issued by the firm is to come directly to the Select Board, it is not to be evaluated or amended by the workgroup; seconded by Dr. MacNab seconded; all in favor, so voted.

2. Authorize Cultural Heritage Partners to Engage Community Claims Fund Administrator for Vineyard Wind Blade Failure Settlement. Caitlin McCurdy and Will Cook of Cultural Heritage Partners explained the review process for the selection of a fund administrator, noting they interviewed four firms and feel confident with Verus, LLC. Ms. McCurdy provided an overview of the claims administration process. Mark

Eveland and Chris Edouard of Verus, LLC spoke on their experience with claims administration. Some discussion followed. Ms. Mohr moved to authorize CHP to engage Verus as the claims administrator; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

3. Committee Reports.

Ms. Mohr spoke on a legislation hearing held yesterday at the State House on transfer fee legislation to benefit affordable housing; she said she commends and appreciates all involved in providing and organizing testimony.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fee moved adjournment at 9:09 PM; seconded by Ms. Mohr; all in favor, so voted.

Approved the 17th day of September, 2025.

**SELECT BOARD
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 – 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. National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation 2025
- III. 3. Climate Change Awareness Month Proclamation 2025
- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 8/20/2025
- VII. 4. Pending Contracts spreadsheet
- VIII. 1. Gift Summary & Recommended Motion; Fire gift 1; Fire gift 2
- IX. 1 - MassWildlife presentation on Changes to the Deer Season
- IX. 2. AIS re: ElecComm Noise Bylaw waiver request; Email from ElecComm
- IX. 3. Eelgrass Management Plan 2025 presentation; Eelgrass Management Plan 2025 Executive Summary; Town of Nantucket Eelgrass Management Plan 2025
- X. 1. Public hearing ad for Shellfish Regulations; Shellfish Regulation Update presentation; Statement of Purpose; Summary of proposed amendments; Chapter 260 - Shellfish Regulations - redline of proposed amendments
- XI. 1. Natural Resources Dept. Update presentation
- XI. 2a. FY 2027 Preliminary Capital Improvement Plan Update presentation
- XI. 2b. Harbor Master Office Building Update presentation
- XI. 2c. Municipal Employee Housing Development FY27 Capital Request presentation
- XI. 3. Draft 2026 ATM/ATE timeline
- XII. 1. Current scope of African Meeting House Investigation Procurement Workgroup
- XII. 2. Recommendation for Settlement Administrator for Community Claims Fund