The Members of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority ("SSA") held their monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on April 18, 2017, in the second floor meeting room of the SSA’s Hyannis terminal, located at 141 School Street, Hyannis, Massachusetts. All five Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Moira E. Tierney (New Bedford) Vice Chairman Robert F. Ranney (Nantucket); Secretary Robert R. Jones (Barnstable); Marc N. Hanover (Martha's Vineyard); and Elizabeth H. Gladfelter (Falmouth).

1. The SSA’s Woods Hole Terminal Reconstruction Project Manager, William J. Cloutier, reported on the various ongoing construction activities that are part of this very important and complex project:

   (a) Last week, G&R Construction, Inc., the contractor for the construction of the SSA’s administrative office building in the Palmer Avenue parking lot, poured the concrete floors for both the basement and the first floor of the building in one day. There had been a one-week delay to ensure that there is sufficient room between the building’s Energy Recovery Unit (ERU), which is situated in the basement, and the first floor beams after the concrete was poured, but Mr. Cloutier stated that he was confident that the time will be made up over the course of the next several months so that the building will be completely finished by January 3, 2018.

   (b) Triumph Modular, Inc., the contractor for the temporary Woods Hole terminal building, has the foundation ready for the installation of the five modular units that will comprise the temporary building. The units will be delivered this week and installed next week. Triumph expects that all of its remaining construction work will be finished by mid-June. The SSA will then have the rest of the year to finish the interior and install all of its computer equipment and furnishings.

   (c) As you probably know, last September, a group of 13 Falmouth residents filed an administrative appeal of the decision by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue the SSA a draft Chapter 91 waterways
license for the Woods Hole terminal reconstruction project. Last Thursday, the DEP Commissioner adopted the hearing officer’s recommended decision in the administrative appeal proceedings to issue the SSA the license. Accordingly, the SSA expects that the license will be issued soon so that it can begin work in the waterside area of the terminal. Meanwhile, Bertaux + Iwerks Architects continue to work on the design details for the ferry slips and piers, and how the construction work during the off-season will be split up into the different phases so that the SSA will always have two fully operational slips while the terminal is being reconstructed. The SSA still expects to issue the invitation for bids for the waterside work in September so that the marine contract can be awarded at the November meeting.

2. The SSA’s General Manager, Wayne C. Lamson, reported that, last month, the SSA rolled out its point-of-sale ticketing system upgrade, which includes replacing a DOS-based system with a Windows-based system, and that it has been well received by the SSA’s ticket sellers. The new system allows the SSA to scan and keep track of individual tickets and tell when they are used. Last month, Skidata also installed the new ticket scanning stations at the Hyannis and Nantucket terminals and the SSA began using them when the M/V Iyanough resumed service on April 1st. The scanners are also being used to scan tickets for the traditional ferries at the Hyannis and Nantucket terminals, and Skidata will return during the week of May 8th to install the scanners at the Woods Hole, Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs terminals so that they can also be used on the Martha’s Vineyard route in time for the summer season.

3. The SSA’s Treasurer/Comptroller, Robert B. Davis, provided an update to the SSA’s Board about the SSA’s progress exploring the possibility of barging municipal solid waste (MSW) from Martha’s Vineyard to New Bedford. The SSA has hired Tetra Tech to assist it in reviewing several different transportation options for shipping MSW off-island. This past week, the Tetra Tech consultants visited both the Oak Bluffs Transfer Station and Packer Marine’s Vineyard Haven facilities to review their operations and explore what everyone’s roles would be if MSW were to be barged from Vineyard Haven instead of being transported by truck on the SSA’s ferries. Mr. Davis reported that both meetings were productive, but cautioned that the SSA is only in the discovery phase of this process, which is expected to take another three months.

4. Mr. Lamson also reported that, last week, the SSA hired Craig Johnson of Flagship Management to further explore the possibility of a freight ferry service between New Bedford and Martha’s Vineyard that would be operated by a private carrier. Although Mr. Johnson is now with Flagship, in 2000 and 2001 he was with Seabulk/Hvide and was in charge of their operation in New Bedford that provided freight service to Martha’s Vineyard pursuant to the RFP the SSA had issued at that time. Therefore, he already knows a lot about the logistics of this operation. Before contacting any private carriers to see what interest they might have in providing such a service, Mr. Johnson will review the existing facilities in New Bedford to see what infrastructure currently exists there to support the
service and what options are available. Again, the SSA is only beginning the discovery phase of this process, which is similarly expected to take another three months.

5. The SSA’s Director of Engineering and Maintenance, Carl R. Walker, reported that the Coast Guard has approved an increase in the capacity of the *M/V Woods Hole* from 384 persons (376 passengers and 8 crewmembers) to 453 persons (445 passengers and 8 crewmembers), although the Coast Guard’s local Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) still has to issue a revised Certificate of Inspection (COI) for the vessel. When the vessel goes into repair at the end of May to finish some punch list items, an additional raft that is required for the increased capacity will be installed on the vessel so that it will be able to carry more passengers during the summer, when it will be operating on the Nantucket route. With the ability to carry 445 passengers, the *M/V Woods Hole* should be able to handle the same number of passengers on that route that previously have been carried by the *M/V Nantucket*. In addition, Mr. Walker reported that the number of open items on the vessel’s punch list has been whittled down from 150 to around a dozen. One of the remaining items is the vessel’s HVAC system and, while the HVAC contractor has modified the system and added equipment to address the humidity issues, the SSA still has to wait for warm weather to see whether it is working as required.

6. The SSA’s Board approved a request from Hyannis Harbor Tours, Inc. (Hy-Line) for permission to operate a high-speed ferry service between Hyannis and Edgartown for the 2017 Christmas in Edgartown event, which will be taking place during the second weekend in December. Hy-Line was approached by the Edgartown Board of Trade about providing the service, and the SSA’s Board approved Hy-Line’s request to operate two round trips on Friday, December 8th, and three round trips on Saturday and Sunday, December 9th and 10th. Hy-Line will be providing the service as additional licensed trips between Hyannis and Martha’s Vineyard under its existing license agreement.

7. The SSA’s Board approved a request from Mr. Davis to update the lists of signers on the SSA’s bank accounts due to the retirement of Kathleen Walters as the SSA’s Assistant Treasurer earlier this year and subsequent promotions within the SSA’s Accounting Department. As a result, Janet Pratt, who was recently promoted to the SSA’s Accounting Manager position, will be added to the lists along with Courtney Oliveira (the SSA’s Assistant Treasurer), Mark Anderson (one of the SSA’s Auditors) and Mr. Davis. Once Terry Cote assumes the SSA’s Treasurer/Comptroller position, she will be added to the list as well.

8. The SSA’s Board awarded Contract #02-2017 for the supply and installation of a new parking access and revenue control system for the SSA’s Thomas B. Landers Road parking lot in Falmouth, and for all of the SSA’s Hyannis parking lots, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder for the contract, Amano McGann of Charlestown, Massachusetts, in the amount of $279,998.36. Although this contract was put out for bid, because this additional system has to be compatible and fully integrated with the SSA’s existing Amano McGann parking system, Amana McGann was the only bidder for the contract.
9. The SSA’s Board authorized Mr. Lamson to purchase networking equipment for the SSA’s new administrative offices from IntraSystems, Inc. of Braintree, Massachusetts, for $589,989 pursuant to a state vendor contract. The equipment includes a network core router, associated switching equipment and components necessary to build and maintain the backbone and hub for the SSA’s computer network.

10. The SSA’s Board also authorized Mr. Lamson to purchase 13 servers for the SSA’s new administrative offices, again from IntraSystems, Inc. of Braintree, Massachusetts, for $145,093 pursuant to a state vendor contract. The servers will support the SSA’s network administration, including boarding and check-in processes, print functions, user and email services, and credit card processing, and will be located in the SSA’s new administrative offices. Additional servers will be required as that project progresses.

11. Finally, the SSA’s Board approved an employment agreement with Terry Cote that will allow her to start her employment with the SSA on May 1st as the SSA’s Treasurer-Elect before she becomes the SSA’s next Treasurer/Comptroller on July 1st, when Mr. Davis becomes the SSA’s next General Manager.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the SSA’s Board voted to go into executive session to discuss various matters appropriate for discussion in executive session, and they announced that they would not reconvene in public.

The next regular monthly meeting of the SSA’s Board is currently scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. The meeting is currently scheduled to take place in the New Bedford Whaling Museum, located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, Massachusetts. However, the location, time and date of the meeting are all subject to change; so please look for the formal notice for the meeting that will appear on this website next month. Thank you.