

Town, Vineyard Wind edge closer to deal in closed-door meeting

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- Aug 22, 2025 Updated Aug 27, 2025

Vineyard Wind has agreed to improve how it communicates with the town, allow the town and residents to shape its updated emergency response plan and provide detailed data on its Aircraft Detection Lighting System's performance, but how those commitments will be enforced still remains up in the air.

That is according to a release from the town after a closed-door meeting last Thursday between representatives from the town and Vineyard Wind, including the offshore wind company's CEO Klaus Moeller and Nantucket Select Board member Brooke Mohr.

The release said the sides have reached "preliminary consensus" on these issues, although not yet in writing, and that negotiations are ongoing and will reconvene Sept. 12.

"Both parties agree that these commitments must be backed by enforcement mechanisms. However, no agreement has yet been reached on how to address noncompliance," the release said. "The town intends to work with Governor Healey's office, at her invitation, to identify potential enforcement tools and ensure Vineyard Wind commits adequate resources to emergency preparedness and response...The Town emphasizes that no demand will be considered resolved until all terms are agreed upon and formalized in writing."

The meeting followed a blistering press conference on July 29, when the Select Board issued 15 demands to Vineyard Wind, citing repeated violations of the Good Neighbor Agreement and communication failures after the 2024 turbine blade failure. At that press conference, local officials gave the company two weeks to respond, threatening to escalate the dispute if Vineyard Wind did not engage.

Nantucket officials have said they want binding accountability measures that go beyond the original Good Neighbor Agreement, which they argue Vineyard Wind has failed to honor. The demands included clearer communication with town staff and the public, real-time information sharing in emergencies, and detailed reporting on the ADLS intended to reduce nighttime lighting. State and federal lawmakers, including Congressman Bill Keating and Senator Ed Markey, have publicly supported Nantucket's calls for stronger accountability.

The full text of the town's release:

“On August 21, 2025, the Town of Nantucket, led by Select Board member Brooke Mohr, met with Vineyard Wind, led by CEO Klaus Moeller, in response to the Town’s accountability demands outlined during its July 29 press conference.

The parties reached preliminary consensus in each of the three substantive areas addressed by the demands:

Vineyard Wind will improve how it communicates with the Town and public through a series of protocols that require regular, detailed reports, timely responses to questions, sharing of regulatory documents, and prompt emergency notifications, among other obligations.

The Town and Nantucket residents will play a direct role in shaping Vineyard Wind’s updated emergency response plans.

Vineyard Wind will provide detailed data on Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) performance, through which the Town can verify operations consistent with expectations.

The parties are putting to paper the specific language of each protocol to achieve these outcomes.

Both parties agree that these commitments must be backed by enforcement mechanisms. However, no agreement has yet been reached on how to address noncompliance. The Town intends to work with Governor Healey’s office, at her invitation, to identify potential enforcement tools and ensure Vineyard Wind commits adequate resources to emergency preparedness and response.

The parties will reconvene on September 12, 2025, to continue negotiations. The Town emphasizes that no demand will be considered resolved until all terms are agreed upon and formalized in writing.

The Town of Nantucket thanks the public for its ongoing advocacy, elected officials for their partnership, and the press for its continued coverage of this important issue. We welcome Vineyard Wind’s renewed focus on accountability and look forward to finalizing standards that uphold the commitments made in the Community Benefit Agreement.”