

**Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
County Of Dukes County, S.S.
MARTHA'S VINEYARD AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**

**September 9, 2021, 2:00PM
Zoom Cloud Conference Meeting**

Notice of Such Meeting Having Been Posted as Required by Law

Present: Airport Commissioners: Acting Chair - Geoffrey Wheeler, Jack Ensor,
Richard Knabel, Robert Zeltzer, Kristin Zern,
Airport Staff: Geoffrey Freeman – Director, Joan Shemit – Airport Business Manager,
Denise Tawa - Assistant to Airport Management,
Water/Wastewater – Jeremy Osbourn, Christina Colarusso,
Dukes County: Commissioner Donald Leopold
Others: Matt O'Brien, – McFarland Johnson, Sam Hobbs – Beta Technologies,
David Dineen – Gale Associates, Doug West,
Marni Lipke – Recorder
Press: Lucas Thors – MV Times, Noah Asimow – Vineyard Gazette,
Shavannáe Anderson – MVTV,

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission (MVAC) meeting was called to order at 2:01PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2021

Mr. Jack Ensor noted that he had seconded the motion to raise wastewater rates to move the dialogue along, but was not supportive of the increase.

• MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 12, 2021 MINUTES;

FIRST: MR. ENSOR,

SECOND: MS. KRISTIN ZERN,

VOTE: UNANIMOUS: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ZERN—AYE, MR. RICHARD KNABEL—AYE, MR. BOB ZELTZER—AYE, MR. ENSOR—AYE, MR. GEOFF WHEELER—AYE.

- The July 8, 2021 minutes would be voted at the October meeting.

III. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT (See documents on file.)

- The Dukes Count Commission (DCC) supported the application for the State revolving fund loan for the Wastewater treatment plant upgrade (see 8/12/21 Minutes p.2 #A).
- The Airport financial status was in good order for August, topping off a profitable summer season, especially in fuel sales which exceeded all predictions.
- The Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) summary showed a surplus, and was available at the earliest date ever thanks to Comptroller Mr. Ed Christoforo.
- Tomorrow the Airport would pay the final installments on both a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) and a Federal Anticipation Note (FAN) after which in October two more bonds would be paid off—making the Airport temporarily debt free.

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- The Subcommittee worked with Airport Director Mr. Geoffrey Freeman to finalize and send the wastewater rate increase letter to Business Park tenants (see 8/12/21 Minutes p.2 #B).

IV. LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- The Plane View restaurant continued to pay utilities and rent in a good start to FY22.
- The Subcommittee was impressed with a preliminary proposal from Blue Air on a grab-and-go concession in the post security area: locally prepared and prepackaged food, canned or bottled drinks, hopefully wine and beer, as well as some free games to amuse children during long waits. The proposal was not concrete and the Subcommittee requested Blue Air return with more developed plans including a successful application for a liquor license from the Town of West Tisbury. MVAC discussed several points, although it was agreed many issues were premature.
 - Most concessions relied on the income from beer and wine to turn a profit, but West Tisbury had strict liquor license parameters involving restaurants, tables and food. Passengers were not allowed to bring alcohol onto airplanes and pre-flight drinking might present some problems.
 - Procurement procedure could be a concession license and/or advertised Request for Proposal (RFP).
 - While such a concession might negatively impact the Plane View slightly, the restaurant had been in business for some time without making any expansion into the post security area. On the other hand it was likely to reduce Transportation Security Administration (TSA) lines by eliminating those leaving for food and returning to the secure area.

V. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- The MV Aviation Careers and Scholarships Facebook page was in place with Subcommittee members Ms. Krista Poppas and Ms. Irene Zaibarth as designated editors.
- After supporting a number of students the Fund had \$14,041 in its account with another \$4,075 in process from Cape Air.

VI. AIRPORT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- After Wastewater Operator Mike Eldrige's retirement, the Airport advertised, interviewed candidates and hired Mr. Jeremy Osbourn to manage the plant and facilities. Advertising for Mr. Osbourn's previous position had closed and interviews would proceed shortly. The MVAC congratulated Mr. Osbourn on his promotion.
- American, Delta and Elite completed service after Labor Day leaving only Jet Blue which would continue on a reduced schedule until October 18th, and Cape Air.
 - The MVAC and Management remarked that Elite had emphasized a goal of year-round and/or extended service (see 4/8/21 Minutes p.3 #VIII), however a mid-summer communication informed management that service would cease on Labor Day and when asked the Airline disavowed any knowledge of such a proposal. They were interested in returning next summer but were in arrears to both MVY and Nantucket Airports. It was noted that a look at Elite patterns showed continual shifts of operations to take advantage of busy seasons at various airports.
- A substantial uptick in August commercial enplanements (19,390) not only exceeded the 2020 Covid year but also the 2019 peak (17,043) and 2018.

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- Air traffic operations were off 3.2% continuing their marginal drop trend. Increased fuel sales probably reflected the shift to more jet traffic over smaller aircraft.
- In the continuing effort to be in the forefront of green aviation initiatives, Mr. Freeman invited Mr. Sam Hobbs of Beta Technologies, out of Burlington, VT to give a brief presentation.
 - Beta was working on two designs for electric airplanes, one, the Alia, about the size of a Cessna able to fly on the wing or with prop/lift rotors with a 250 nautical mile range.
 - The Company was also progressing rapidly on building a nationwide universal-use network of charging stations as an alternate fuel source. Infrastructure consisted of cable/wiring, power towers to do the heavy lifting and refrigerator-sized charge dispensers with payment options and software that allowed for fast charging—although this was not a high airport preference. Stations were usually off pavement to reduce airport infrastructure disruption and vehicle (car) charging stations for hangar and/or lot parking could be simultaneously installed, as well as expansion infrastructure (again to minimize future disruption). For Airport convenience, Beta handled utility company coordination.
 - In addition the company was sponsoring training in all aspects of the new technology.
 - Beta was interested in selling kilowatt hours and therefore chargers were designed to be non-proprietary, i.e. to fit as many electric airplane technologies as possible. Beta could consult with Cape Air on their future electric plane plans (see 6/10/21 Minutes p.3 #VI).
 - After consultation with management the southeast ramp and a hangar location were suggested dispenser locations for MVY Airport.
 - Although the Island was moving steadily towards solar power, the chargers were connected to the grid and consequently behind-the-meter power was under the control of the utilities.
 - MVAC thanked Mr. Hobbs (see below: Tasks).

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT - None

VIII. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR - None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

X. ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETINGS

- Outreach Subcommittee – 2:00PM, Thursday, October 7, 2021
- Land Use Subcommittee - 3:00PM, Thursday, October 7, 2021
- Finance Subcommittee - 3:30PM, Friday, October 8, 2021
- **MVAC - 2:00PM, Thursday, October 14, 2021**

XIII. ADJOURN

- MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:46PM;**
FIRST: MR. KNABEL,
SECOND: MR. ENSOR,
VOTE: UNANIMOUS: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. ZERN—AYE, MR. ZELTZER—AYE, MR. KNABEL—AYE, MR. ENSOR—AYE, MR. WHEELER—AYE.

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Appendix A: Tasks

- All – are encouraged to visit Beta Technologies website: <https://www.beta.team/>
- October 14th Agenda – July 8, 2021 & September 9, 2021 Regular Session Minutes
August 12, 2021 Executive Session Minutes

Appendix B: Documents on file:

- Agenda 9/9/21
- Martha's Vineyard Airport Water, Wastewater, and Facilities Department Information and Newsletter, August 2021, 9/7/21

Minutes approved 10/14/21