

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

**September 14, 2023, 2:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission Conference Room
and by Zoom Conference**

PRESENT: **Commissioners:** Bob Rosenbaum (Chair), Don Ogilvie, Bob Zeltzer, Richard Knabel, Jack Ensor, Geoff Wheeler* (zoom), Kristin Zern*
 Staff: Geoffrey Freeman, Denise Tawa
 Other: Mrs. Fitch, Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of the 8/10/23 meeting.
Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Knabel to approve the 8/10/23 draft minutes. Mr. Ensor seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:
Wheeler – Aye, Zeltzer – Abstain, Ogilvie – Aye, Knabel – Aye, Ensor – Aye, Rosenbaum – Aye,
Motion carries **(5-0-1)**. Ms. Zern not present at time of vote.

III. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Knabel reported that July was a heavy month and the Airport's cash position is up considerably after the summer months. The arrears are looking good. The County will switch over to a payroll service in January. The Commission discussed the issues with the County Treasurer's Office, and how those issues affect the Airport's finances. The County has hired someone to help with closing out the FY22 books and outstanding items in FY23, so the Treasurer can focus on FY24 tasks. The County FinCom will be meeting every other week and the plan is to have an auditor here in November.

IV. LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No report. There is no update on the Tennis Center lease.

V. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

VI. MVY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Ms. Zern arrived to the meeting.

- Sundial Project
The Commission has previously discussed this project which proposes to install a sundial memorial on the Airport's campus. An updated proposal was distributed. Mr. Ogilvie stated that this proposal is greatly improved from the previous one, and it addresses all of the concerns that he and Mr. Rosenbaum expressed. The sundial, in addition to being a memorial, will add an

interactive, educational experience to visitors of the Airport. It will honor Erik Fitch, a young man whose aspirations to become a pilot were cut short with a sudden and untimely death, and it will also feature a model Hellcat to honor the Airport's history and connection to WWII. Some commission members expressed concerns about setting a precedent for similar proposals in the future; it was decided that similar proposals will be considered on a case by case basis. Other concerns included the completion date and budget; the Fitch family will be responsible for all project costs.

*Mr. Wheeler departs the meeting.

The sundial will not create any disturbance to install and it will require very little maintenance. *Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Ogilvie to approve the proposed sundial memorial. Mr. Ensor seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (6-0-0).*

Mr. Freeman reported that Airport operations this year were down slightly in June and July compared with last year, but August was slightly more. He said the Airport is in good shape for the upcoming storm (Lee); Jet Blue has cancelled flights on Friday and Saturday and Cape Air has cancelled their Saturday flights.

Mr. Freeman informed the Commission that he hired a consultant to look at the Airport's best options, financially and feasibly, for the parking lot's payment system. The Airport owns the equipment, which was a significant investment. Mr. Freeman stated that the parking lot has generated about \$275k in revenue.

Mr. Freeman reported that a draft of the Noise Study has been sent out and they are planning a public meeting on October 10th to review the information.

They are finishing up the safety analysis for the new control tower and are looking at two possible sites for relocation.

The taxi lane paving job was awarded to Lawrence Lynch yesterday. The work will start this spring. Construction of the new hangar began yesterday as well.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Rosenbaum commended Mr. Freeman and the Airport staff on their open and effective lines of communication with the public.

He informed the other Commission members that there will be a networking event on October 22nd.

Mr. Zeltzer expressed his appreciation for all the work that Norman has put into the Airport's finances.

Mr. Rosenbaum echoed the statement saying Norman's insight and expertise to evaluate financial documents has been extremely beneficial. He is also assisting the County.

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Zeltzer to formally recognize the efforts made by Norman, on an entirely pro-bono basis. Mr. Knabel seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (6-0-0).

VIII. ITEMS NOT REASONABLE ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR

None.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETINGS

MVAC: October 12, 2023 at 2:00pm
Outreach: October 5, 2023 at 2:00pm
Land Use: October 5, 2023 at 3:00pm
Finance: October 6, 2023 at 10:00am

XII. ADJOURN

At 3:01pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Zeltzer and seconded by Mr. Knabel. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (7-0-0).

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.
Minutes approved: 10/12/2023