

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

**February 8, 2024, 2:00PM
Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission Conference Room
and by Zoom Conference**

PRESENT: **Commissioners:** Bob Rosenbaum, Kristen Zern, Don Ogilvie, Bob Zeltzer (zoom), Richard Knabel (zoom), Jack Ensor (zoom), Geoff Wheeler (zoom),
Staff: Geoffrey Freeman, Denise Tawa, Joan Shemit (zoom)
Other: Richard Andre, Luke Lefeber (zoom) Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of the 1/11/24 regular meeting.

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Knabel to approve the 1/11/24 draft minutes. Ms. Zern seconds the motion, minor clarifying discussion, roll call vote:

Knabel – Aye, Ensor – Aye, Wheeler – Aye, Zern – Aye, Ogilvie – Aye, Rosenbaum – Aye, Zeltzer – Aye.

Motion passes unanimously (7-0-0).

Approval of the draft 1/11/24 Executive Session minutes was postponed.

III. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Knabel reported that financials are in very good shape for the first half of fiscal year 24. Although revenues are a bit slow at the moment, accounts receivable remains in good shape. Mr. Knabel reported that the Finance Committee had a two-hour meeting to hear a presentation from McFarland Johnson on the new terminal; this project has financial implications that will necessitate additional discussions in the coming months.

Mr. Rosenbaum informed the Commission that the County books have been updated so the audit can take place. Although this is good news, it cost about \$20k. The County has concerns about being able to cover the entire \$20k so the Airport has offered to cover what the County is not able to. The County Manager will let the Commission know how much is needed (she expects about \$10k). They are hoping to begin the 2023 audit in March.

IV. LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- a. Recommendation of RFP 2023-04-Lot 32 Award:

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Land Use Committee met Monday to review three proposals submitted in response to the RFP for the lease of Lot 32. Of the three proposals, two were complete. The Committee considered factors above and beyond the price offered, including the benefit the business provides to the community.

With a unanimous vote, the Land Use Committee recommends award of RFP 2023-04-Lot 32 to Star Propane. A report on the recommendation was provided to the members of the Commission.

Motion placed on the floor by Ms. Zern to award the lease for Lot 32 to Star Propane. Mr. Ensor seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

Zeltzer – Aye, Knabel – Aye, Ensor – Aye, Wheeler – Aye, Zern – Aye, Ogilvie – Aye, Rosenbaum – Aye.

Motion passes unanimously (7-0-0).

V. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Zern and Irene met and discussed future fundraising efforts as well as whether the Airport should issue a regular newsletter to keep people up to date on aviation-related opportunities. She also noted that there are aviation opportunities through Vineyard Wind.

VI. MVY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Freeman stated that JetBlue is ending service on their White Plains route for the upcoming season. This route was in service last year but will be dropped this season. Mr. Freeman stated that this is normal, airlines add and drop routes all the time. He continued that he has not seen any formal schedules from the airlines at this time, and while there will be some shifting schedules, there will not be any major changes to the routes offered for the 2024 season.

a. Vineyard Power presentation on solar battery units:

The Commission welcomed Richard Andre and Luke Lefeber from Vineyard Power. Mr. Freeman stated that they have been working with Vineyard Power to come up with ideas for how to make the Airport more resilient, including the use of solar arrays on Airport buildings. Mr. Andre stated that Vineyard Power first started working with the Airport back in 2015. Vineyard Power is the island's renewable energy non-profit which aims to lead the island's energy transition program away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy. Mr. Andre spoke to Vineyard Power's working relationship with Vineyard Wind and how they are working to provide and promote training opportunities for the jobs that Vineyard Wind will make available.

Mr. Lefeber then gave a presentation on the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) grant program for solar PV and battery storage systems, now in its sixth round. The two Airport projects that have been included in the RFP for this grant round are solar arrays for the ARFF Building and the new Wastewater Facility building. Vineyard Power will work with CVEC and the Airport to help subsidize the cost of the battery storage systems for those arrays. Mr. Lefeber summarized the specifications for the projects and how the grant funding would be applied.

Mr. Andre stated that Vineyard Power would like to present a draft grant agreement to the Airport Commission, pending the outcome of the RFP, before the end of March.

Mr. Freeman reviewed the January statistics.

He informed the Commission that the Airport has entered into a contract with a new fuel provider; this will result in monthly savings and will also give the Airport an opportunity to review their fuel pricing.

Mr. Freeman recognized the passing of Dan Creato, who was a seasonal agent and traffic officer for the Airport.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Rosenbaum reminded the Commission about SFI reporting. He also updated the Commission that the Town of West Tisbury denied Blu Water Capital's request to serve alcoholic beverages in the post-screening area. Mr. Freeman added that the Town Administrator informed him that the request to sell alcohol is a non-starter, for now, as the existing town bylaw only allows the sale of alcohol in a restaurant.

VIII. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR

None.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

X. ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETINGS

MVAC: March 14, 2024 at 2:00pm
Outreach: March 7, 2024 at 2:00pm
Land Use: March 7, 2024 at 3:00pm
Finance: March 8, 2024 at 10:00am

XI. ADJOURN

At 3:18pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously (7-0-0).

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.

Minutes approved: 3/14/2024