

Martha's Vineyard Airport Annual Report FY22

The Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission (MGL Chapter 90 sec. 39G) is responsible for the care and operation of the Airport, and the one square mile of land upon which it is located. The seven-member volunteer Commission is appointed to three-year terms by the County Commission and represents a cross section of experience and backgrounds. The Airport has 20 full-time and about 15 part-time and seasonal employees who operate the Airport, including its service components and water and wastewater departments, implementing policy and ensuring compliance with state and federal guidelines.

Originally constructed by the Navy as a training field for pilots during World War II, the Airport was transferred to Dukes County in 1959. The property has been a civilian airport ever since, and has hosted many other tenants and activities. It remained largely unchanged until the late 1990s, when the construction of a new passenger terminal building and Business Park was completed. Annually the Airport serves about 69,000 commercial passengers (counted one-way), and has about 42,000 aircraft operations.

Efforts to update and modernize the Airport facilities and processes have helped improve safety, customer service and administrative efficiency. The Airport Commission, along with management and staff, are dedicated to providing a safe, reliable and efficient travel option to the public, while remaining a self-sufficient asset for the Vineyard. The Airport is financially self-supporting, with revenues offsetting annual expenses. Private construction and development on Airport property generate tax revenues for Edgartown and West Tisbury, and provide significant direct and indirect economic benefits for all six towns on the Island.

Grant-Funded Capital Improvements

In 2017 the Airport Commission completed a Master Plan Update that includes recommendations for how the Airport can accommodate projected changes over the next 20 years. As part of that process, the Commission in 2018 initiated an environmental review of those projects which the master plan indicates should begin in the near future. Current Projects under various phases in 2022:

- Environmental plan/study/permits runway approach obstructions
- Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and renovations
- Taxi lane reconstruction
- Terminal feasibility study
- Snow Removal Equipment replacement

Aviation Activity

Total commercial passenger enplanements increased to 69,039 in CY22 compared to 65,373 in CY 2021. Total aircraft operations fell slightly, 42,188 CY22 from 43,550 CY21. The decline is attributed to the aviation industry adjustment to pre pandemic activities.

Airline Service

Scheduled airline service remains strong with Cape Air providing year round service and JetBlue, American and Delta providing services beginning in May through October. Destinations include: Boston, New Bedford, Hyannis, Nantucket, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia PA, Charlotte NC, Washington DC and Chicago IL. Air carrier aircraft in use are the E190 and E175 regional jets from 80-100 passengers.

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Annual Report FY22

Car Rental Services

Budget, Avis and Hertz provided rental car services at the Airport.

Customer Service, Sales and Processing

Jet fuel sales for CY22 1,016,438.0 down 5 percent from CY21 (1,071,018.1) AvGas fuel sales for CY22 73,635.7 down 18 percent from CY21 (90,107.1). The declines are in line with traffic adjusting to pre pandemic numbers

Business Park

Efforts to expand the Airport Business Park continued in FY22 with the identification of areas that do not contain critical habitat or present other environmental restrictions. Areas deemed suitable for expansion must ultimately be approved by the FAA, which will consider any environmental restrictions, and whether the land will be needed for aeronautical use in the future. We expect to issue requests for proposals for new properties in the spring of 2022.

The Airport also continues to work to ensure that leasing policies and existing leases were consistent with FAA regulations.

Water and Wastewater Services

The Airport is responsible for the maintenance and testing of the water distribution system for all of its users and tenants. Meters were installed on all service connections and are read on a monthly basis, with water provided by the Oak Bluffs Water District. The Airport and its tenants consumed 3,902,127 gallons of water in 2022 for a variety of purposes, including fire protection, training, irrigation and commercial uses. Water usage increased by 11 percent (from 3,517,290 gallons in 2021). Wastewater facility treated 3,651,654 gallons in 2022 increased by 8 percent (from 3,389,030 gallons in 2021). Periodic testing of the water distribution system demonstrates regulatory compliance, including specific tests for coliform, lead and copper, all of which remain well below the threshold for safe drinking water standards.

The Airport has contracted with engineering services for the design and construction phases for the upgrade and renovations of the facility, construction is slated to begin in March of 2023.

Airport Commission

Bob Rosenbaum, Chair
Don Ogilvie, Vice Chair
Richard Knable
Kristin Zern
Geoff Wheeler
Robert Zeltzer

Airport Management

Geoffrey Freeman, Airport Director
Denise Tawa, Executive Assistant
Jeremy Osborn, WWTP Manager