

Public Comment

Chatham Airport - Major Modification - CCC Nos. 24002/04012 - Chatham

Submitted By: DeeDee Holt

Town/Village: Chatham

Submission Date/Time: 6/24/2024 6:21 PM

via online form

Comment

I am commenting on behalf of Chatham's Friends of Trees. We are a volunteer run, 501(c)(3) established in 1978 to plant, care for, educate, and advocate for protecting Chatham's trees.

We are genuinely concerned about the scope of woodland the airport commission is proposing to significantly disrupt, resulting in removal of hundreds, if not thousands, of mature trees. Chatham has lost and continues to lose acres of woodlands for wells, water treatment plants, pump stations and housing (two wooded parcels to soon be cleared for development).

The Cape Cod Commission recognizes the importance of open space and woodlands. Your Climate Action Plan not only calls for the preservation of woodlands but encourages communities to create more. The services that trees provide cannot be overstated, from cleaning ground water (the airport is in the Zone II watershed recharge zone), to absorbing stormwater, to pulling toxins from the air. Additionally, loss of such habitat is the leading cause of wildlife disappearance from the Cape, and elsewhere. It's happening everywhere. It should not happen here. What is proposed at the airport is excessive and counter to everything we understand about the value of woodlands, and in particular trees. It will also have a negative impact on the rare habitat of a Certified Vernal Pool. We encourage the Cape Cod Commission to consider alternatives for the airport's safety problems. We urge you to seriously consider the options proposed by citizens or others that may exist; and to exercise your authority to protect these mature trees. There must be a way to ensure safety as well as retaining more trees.

Thank you in advance for your diligence reviewing the full impact of the proposed Vegetation Management at Chatham's Airport.

Respectfully,

DeeDee Holt

President, Friends of Trees

PDF File submitted: No