

Harriet Prout – Chatham – July 25, 2024 – CCC Hearing

To the the Cape Cod Commission Members,

I strongly recommend that you reject the request by the Chatham Airport Commission – Chatham Airport Safety Improvements – Major Modification.

I write because of my concerns for Chatham’s Water Supply and Water Source.

During your decision process, I ask for you to remember TWO dates & their details:

February 21,2024 – date of the Chatham Conservation Commission Letter to you & February 22, 2024 – date of Cape Cod Chronicle Editorial - “Water Woes”.

ONE-DAY AFTER ANOTHER,

individuals with expertise were anxious, fearful for Chatham’s Water:

Conservation Commission Members &

Leah Stanton, highly experienced water supply expert.

Water Supply:

On February 22, 2024, in our local paper (The Cape Cod Chronicle), there was an Editorial called, “Water Woes”. Quotes from that editorial:

“Chatham is behind the eight ball (in trouble) when it comes to its water supply system.”

“Some of its wells are old and shallow, one was closed for years after the discovery of tetrachloroethylene and two more are tainted with PFAS.”

“And like other communities on the Cape, Chatham pumps the most water in the summertime, when the aquifer is at its lowest level.”

“The bad news is that though the town just completed two new wells at Mill Pond, it’s not enough.”

“Consider the words of Leah Stanton, a highly experienced water supply expert, ‘when we first started looking at this, I was thinking you probably had enough water supply for the way the people in Chatham are using water’”

“The bottom line is, left unchecked, Chatham’s summertime water use is not sustainable.”

“It will take a redoubling of effort to both increase supply, and decrease demand, for the town’s most valuable commodity.”

Water Source:

On February 21, 2024, Chatham Conservation Commission Letter writes of concerns on the impact of Chatham’s Ecosystem – one being Hydrology.

Quotes from the Airport Master Plan:

On page 107 of the Airport Master Plan, the map (Fig 26, dated 10-4-85) shows “Location of Public Water Supply”, well #4 and the Airport runway.

On page 106, “the zone of contribution and recharge area for the well (#4) totally encompasses the Airport. Five ponds are in the immediate vicinity of the airport are part of the recharge area.”

“The ponds Black, Blue, Bearses, White and Emery are the kettle hole variety common to the Cape.”

“All of which add to the recharge area supplying water to the well. All of the ponds receive storm water runoff and drainage from the airport to a small degree due to the airport’s proximity and higher elevation. Therefore, the ponds, groundwater and well supply could possibly become polluted due to storm water runoff from the airport.” Right now, thousands of trees are filtering hundreds of gallons of the water within the “zone of contribution and recharge area” and protecting our water supply. The same trees scheduled for removal in the Airport Plan.

On page 108 of the Airport Master Plan, the plan refers to the “potential pollution sources due to chemicals and fuels ... for operation and maintenance of aircraft.”

According to the APCC “2023 State of the Waters: Cape Cod”, Barnstable has three areas of Concentration of PFAS. They are Joint Base Cape Cod, Fire Training Site and Hyannis Airport. <https://apcc.org/news-events/events/how-healthy-are-cape-cods-waters/>

Please reject Chatham’s Airport Commission request:

Chatham residents have a crucial public issue before them – drinking water.

Chatham residents need to focus and protect its water supply and water source.

Chatham residents voted down the Airport Warrant Article – 158 to 306.

Chatham residents need to have a conversation/compromise between Water & Airport.

Thank you.