

## Public Comment

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

**Submitted By:** Paula Lofgren

**Town/Village:** Chatham

**Submission Date/Time:** 7/24/2024 11:56 AM

*via online form*

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## Comment

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**PDF File submitted:** Yes

At the July 16<sup>th</sup> Sub-Committee hearing, I referenced *Chatham's Conservation Commission's* 8-page, *Discretionary Referral Letter* on this Airport project **to** the Cape Cod Commission.

During the previous hearings, I have ***not heard any mention***, by the Staff or the Sub-Committee, ***of this Cons Com correspondence***.

I am concerned that the CC Commission *might render a decision without fully evaluating* the significant environmental concerns of *Chatham's Cons Com*.

(Quoting from the Cons Com referral) "Removal of canopy trees in woodland areas has been demonstrated to have adverse impacts on the ecosystems that are changed from woodlands to shrublands." (close Quote).

Today, in your discussions, please consider the following:

- The Cons Coms details that the Airport Commission adopted ***an Airport Master Plan Update in 2021***, which ***replaced*** the 2005 Airport Master Plan.
- They wrote (Quote) "the Airport Commission filed a request with the Cape Cod Commission for a Minor Modification to the 2005 Airport Master Plan, ***a plan that is no longer in effect***." (close Quote).
- So, according to *Chatham's Conservation Commission*, the CC Commission is being asked to issue a *Major Modification* to ***a plan that is no longer in effect, and, in fact, was replaced in 2021***.
- As the Referral Letter clearly states, (Quote) "the ***2021 Airport Master Plan Update*** has ***NOT been reviewed or approved by any regulatory body***. There has not been any application for a local permit filed (by the Airport) and as such there has been no trigger for review. ... We ***strongly recommend*** that the Cape Cod Commission ***accept review*** of the ***2021 AMPU as part of this Referral!***" (close Quote)
- The Letter details that these *2 acres of vernal pool tree-clearing* is ***part of a more than 60 acres of tree-clearing included in the 2021 Airport Master Plan Update***.
- (Quote) "The VMP proposes vegetation removal activities on 61.43 acres. ...***Our review is limited*** to just the ***small portion of the much larger project***. Potential and likely impacts to the ***far larger area will remain entirely unreviewed***... ***other than*** the Cape Cod Commission's ***acceptance of this referral!***" (close Quote)

***Please, please accept*** *Chatham's Conservation Commission's strong request* to apply the Cape Cod Commission's resources and expertise to ***a full DRI review*** of the *2021 Airport Master Plan Update* and its ***potential impacts*** to our ***Natural Systems***.

Please ***postpone your approval*** of this small 2-acre VMP project *until a full review of the Airport's 60 acres of tree-clearing is completed*.

Thank You.

Paula Winter Lofgren  
69 Horizon Drive  
Chatham MA