

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

**August 3, 2005 5:00 pm
Martha's Vineyard Airport**

Notice of Such Meeting having been Posted as Required by Law.

Present:

Airport Commissioners: Chair Jesse B. (Jack) Law, Vice Chair John Alley, Frank Daly*,
T. J. Hegarty, William (Bill) Mill, Norman Perry*

Airport Staff: Sean Flynn - Acting Manager,

Dukes County: E. Winn Davis- County Manager;

Others: Eric Bates, Kathy Retmier – VNI, Marni Lipke - Recorder

Press: Jim Kinsella - Vineyard Gazette, Ezra Blair – MV Times

Joanie Ames – MVTV

* Late arrival or early departure (see * in text)

The meeting was called to order at 5:02PM.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes July 19, 2005

In keeping with past practice, summer minutes were delayed until the fall. Motion Drafts had been sent out.

2. Request for Sublet Approval MVRTA to Vineyard.NET (VNI)

Mr. Bates and Ms. Retmier of Vineyard.NET (VNI) described their plans to attempt high speed wireless internet access to the Airport Business Park. A small survey had been circulated that showed substantial interest from the tenants. A powerful antenna from the Martha's Vineyard Regional Transit Authority (VTA) roof would communicate with smaller antenna's on the roofs of the tenants and a monthly service fee would be charged. Mr. Bates noted that wireless was an unpredictable carrier due to intervening trees, metal buildings, etc. VNI was not expecting to make much money by this venture.

*Mr. Norman Perry entered the meeting at 5:08PM.

Mr. Davis asked if there was a special government rate but Mr. Bates explained that their rates were too close to their costs to allow for discounts. After a brief discussion **MR. JOHN ALLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO SUBLET TO VINEYARD.NET FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLYING T1 WIRELESS TO BUSINESS PARK CUSTOMERS, APPROVAL BEING CONTINGENT ON ASSURANCE THAT THE WIRELESS SYSTEM/COMMUNICATIONS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH ANY MV AIRPORT COMMUNICATIONS AND SYSTEMS: MR. BILL MILL SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
August 3, 2005

3. Airport Manager's Update

- The aircraft of a local sightseeing company landed with its landing gear up and scraped about 450 feet along the runway. There were no injuries, no fires and no leaks and no one was taken to the hospital. The incident was due to pilot error. The plane was lifted in place the landing gear lowered and it was towed back to its hangar.
- The construction on Taxiway Alpha and the reconstruction of the ramp and holding bay was coming up shortly. Acting Airport Manager Mr. Sean Flynn described the tree clearing and rare species mitigation that was in process at the Airport and across the street on the 'Medicine Lots.' The rare species include the Barrons buckmoth, the purple tiger beetle, grass-leaved ladies tresses and some nesting sparrows.

*Mr. Frank Daly entered the meeting at 5:14PM.

The Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission (MVAC) asked that a map of the tree clearing and formation of new habitat be posted in the Airport and on the Airport and County websites.

4. Old Business

- Mr. T. J. Hegarty returned to the issue of the Airport Laundromat drainage and stated that he had consulted Mr. Berlucci on the subject and that the issue had nothing to do with the Sheriff's Dept. buildings (see 7/19/05 Minutes p.2 #3). Mr. Flynn explained the history of the drainage which had always been a problem but which had been mitigated by a swale and natural percolation. The problem had increased in severity as the Sheriff's Dept. building was added to the location. He noted that this was being worked on by the Airport and the County with Mr. Berlucci and recommended that the Sheriff's building drainage would be corrected, the road would be moved and at that point the remainder of the drainage problem would be Mr. Seward's responsibility.
- There had been no word on the County/Airport rent-allocation letter. Mr. Flynn will call the lawyer to ask about any progress.
- Mr. Alley noted that everyone had received a copy of the decision on the law suit and had read enough about the issue in the newspapers.

5. New Business

- Mr. Alley reported a complaint from Mr. Don McDonald and Mr. Ken O'Conner of Vineyard Farms about a lengthy jet revving noise on Sunday. The neighbors wanted to come to tonight's meeting en masse and raise the roof but Mr. Alley said he would raise the roof for them and asked Mr. Flynn to call the parties in question. Mr. Flynn reported a single phone call with no name and no call back number. He attributed the problem to rare weather conditions that shifted traffic from Runway 2/4 to Runway 6 and was further compounded by an old style Lear jet with a noisy engine.
- Mr. Hegarty protested the current airfares as prohibitive: USAir round trip to NYC was \$564 and Cape Air to Boston was \$246 or off peak \$179. He asked why there was no competition and if the open slots had been advertised. There was a brief discussion touching on free market forces, a history of airlines that served the Vineyard and the cost of providing services.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
August 3, 2005

- Mr. Daly noted that on page 24 of the recent court decision the Judge recommended that a separate enterprise account be set up for the Airport and asked that the MVAC give this some consideration. County Manager Mr. Winn Davis maintained that the Judge had missed the boat and that it would take a legislative act to set up such an account. He also noted that triple damages were no longer mandatory and that he had appealed that part of the decision. The County had 30 days after the triple damages ruling to appeal the entire decision. Mr. Flynn noted that the Airport funds were now segregated from County funds and asked the MVAC how they wished to proceed. Chair Law suggested that the MVAC wait till the dust settled on the Court case, at which time they would be better able to intelligently discuss the situation.
- Mr. Hegarty asked that the next meeting be moved from August 17th to the 16th in consideration of the Agricultural Fair. It was unclear if another meeting would be needed in August however Mr. Hegarty's request would be considered.
- Mr. Daly then asked about progress on the search for a new manager, and proposed that the Assistant Manager be automatically moved up to the Manager's position when that position was vacated. Chair Law agreed saying he had always thought the Airport should be looking for an Assistant Manager. Others noted that public sector jobs had a legal mechanism of advertising and interviewing in which any assistant manager could participate. Any change in this policy would require a special act of legislation. The MVAC discussed the issue including dead-end jobs, the advice of legal counsel, public hiring practice, and cost savings. **MR. DALY MOVED THAT THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD AIRPORT COMMISSION LOOK INTO THE LEGAL PROCEDURE THAT WOULD ALLOW THE ASSISTANT MANAGER TO MOVE AUTOMATICALLY INTO THE MANAGERS POSITION AS IT WAS VACATED; MR. PERRY SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 3 AYES – MR. DALY, MR. LAW, MR. PERRY; 3 NAYS – MR. ALLEY, MR. HEGARTY, MR. MILL.**

7. Adjournment

MR. ALLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:55PM; MR. MILL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Documents on file:

Agenda 8/3/05

MV Regional Transit Authority letter re: sublet to Vineyard.net 7/22/05

High Speed Wireless at the Airport Business Park