

## Chatham Airport Commission Annual Report 2024

The Airport Commission continues to support the use of the Chatham Municipal Airport as a general aviation facility in the National Airspace System. The Commission's mission is the care, custody, and responsibility for the management of the airport and to ensure the safety and security of the community and the airport users. The Commission continued in its efforts to maintain flight safety and to improve the aging airport infrastructure.

The Obstruction Removal Project to ensure safe runway approach and departure paths continues. Although there have been roadblocks to the completion of the on-airport portion of this project, the Commission is confident that it will be completed by year end 2025. The off-airport portion of this project is slated to begin in the early part of 2025. Property owners have been contacted and provided with options to remove the identified obstructions that encroach the approach paths. Per Town Meeting 2023, the Town has set aside funds to pay for the removal of these obstructions. The Commission will continue to monitor and mitigate any identified obstructions into the future on these properties, as well as on the airport, to ensure public safety. Federal and State Grant Assurances require that this work be done as soon as possible to maintain a safe airport.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) will be using the former Fisherman's Storage Area as an Upper Air Balloon Launch Station. Construction on the site should begin this summer. The station had been located on Morris Island prior to its closure due to coastal bank erosion.

The planned installation of electric vehicle charging stations in the airport parking lot has been put on hold due to a lack of funding. The Commission feels that this is an important project and will continue to look at alternative sources of funding in 2025.

The airport infrastructure needs continual repair due to the age of the buildings. The Commission is committed to keeping them in serviceable condition. These projects started in 2023 and continued in 2024 with the submission of applications for funding from the FAA, MassDOT-Aeronautical, and Town Meeting. There are several projects slated for 2025. Continued structural improvements to the storage hangar, a generator and other electrical improvements for the Administration Building, ADA compliance, and refurbishing the picnic area.

The new Airport Commission website is up and running and provides user-friendly interface that will provide timely information to the pilot community, provide enhanced capability for the general public to contact the Commission regarding noise and other issues of concern, and to provide up-to-date information on Commission projects and initiatives.

Finally, the Airport Commission continues to make safety for all its primary objective, as it strives to support the airport as a general aviation facility and to be a good neighbor to the

residents of Chatham. The airport is a valuable asset of the Town, and the Commission is committed to maintaining that asset.

The Commission would like to thank Town staff liaison, Terry Whalen; staff assistant, Sawyer Bengston; and, recording secretary, Deb Norris for their assistance with Commission business.

Special thanks to Town Manager, Jill Goldsmith; Finance Director, Carrie Mazzerolle; Town Counsel, Jay Talerma; and Mike Schell, Select Board liaison to the Commission, and the rest of the Select Board for working with and supporting the Airport Commission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Huntley Harrison  
Chairman, Chatham Airport Commission  
January 31, 2025