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PARKING REVISIONS TO TAKE EFFECT AT AIRPORT IN APRIL

For Immediate Release

HYANNIS - Change is coming to the parking system at Barnstable Municipal Airport.

Airport commissioners gave unanimous approval Tuesday afternoon to a new 10-year ground lease with Republic Parking Corp. that will mean simpler and, in some cases, lower rates for travelers, as well as an end to discount coupons.

Beginning April 15, it will cost nine dollars a day to park in the main lot, year-round. The \$12 daily seasonal rate and the five-dollar daily off-season rate will be eliminated.

The weekly parking fee will drop from \$60 to \$50, and the annual charge will increase to \$1,800 from \$1,500. The daily rate to park in the overflow lot—when the main lot is full— will remain at six dollars.

"Everyone will pay the same basic rates, regardless of the calendar," said Airport Manager Roland "Bud" Breault.

Airport Finance Committee Chairman Ronald Persuitte, who led the negotiations with Republic Parking, said the ground lease is a win-win. "In return for the long-term parking concession, Republic Parking will essentially provide the airport with \$427,500 to grade and re-surface a portion of the new main parking lot and install new automated ticket vending equipment. These costs will be repaid over time from parking revenues," he added.

Breault said the airport, in cooperation with the air carriers, has offered discount parking to commuter fliers for years. "While the discount coupon program was popular, it has

been troublesome to administer and costly to the airport,” he said. “It has cost us an average of \$250,000 each year in lost revenue without comparable gain.”

The airport manager said it will still take three dollars to park for an hour or less, and people who drop off passengers will be given access to parking for the first 15 minutes at no charge. It is likely, he added, that the airport will adopt a parking validation program for patrons using the airport restaurant and shops.

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