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Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

Date: May 10, 2023

Subject: NTSB# ERA23LA225

Contact: Steve Dickson (Pilot in Command, Airplane Owner)

The individual noted above provided the following information via a telephone calls. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

- The weather was a VFR day.
- He climbed to 10,500 ft msl, down the east coast and made a direct descent to 47N airport. The landing was uneventful. He taxied to refuel and recalled that there was a line.
- He recalled that he refueled with 70.6 gallons. It was his estimation he had about 34 gallons already onboard. This airplane has auxiliary fuel tanks.
- He reported that the preflight was normal and he taxied to the runway. The destination was Chesapeake, Virginia. He taxied to runway 25. He recalled that the fuel pump was off.
- He reported that he landed while selected to the left tank, and he departed with the fuel selector selected to the left tank.
- On the takeoff, he recalled that the airplane accelerated forward about 1500 ft down the runway the nose lifted off. He stated that, "Something just didn't feel right." He recalled that he remained looking straight ahead and there were trees ahead.

- He reported that the airplane reached about 300 ft agl and the engine started "slowing down." He compared the loss of power to taking your foot off the gas pedal in a car. There were no vibrations or bangs from the engine.
- He reported that he pushed the throttle, propeller, and mixture levers full forward. He recalled that the wind was 270° at 8 to 10 knots. He recalled that the wind began pushing the airplane to the east.
- He reported that the left wing started to droop down, the airplane veered left and he saw an open field. He recalled clearing trees, and hit terrain wings level and skidded about 100 ft. The left main landing gear was sheared.
- The propeller had 1.5 hours on it since it was replaced. He recalled that the work was done at New England Propeller and installed at Brookhaven.
- Prior to the cross-country trip, he performed a 30-minute test flight at the airport where the maintenance was performed, after the airplane was released from maintenance. There were no issues.
- There was no other recent maintenance besides the propeller work.

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