

AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

RUTLAND – SOUTHERN VERMONT REGIONAL AIRPORT

1/29/2015 meeting minutes

In attendance:

Chris Beitzel, Chris Reece, Tracy Adams, David Sternberg, Ed Bove, Ted Corsones, Steve Baker, Marji Graf, Paul Carroccio, Bob Walsh, Art Vangilder and Guy Rouelle(via phone)

Old Business:

Update on construction –Art Vangilder updated the group on the Phase 3 progress. Mass excavation is being done for retaining walls, drainage and road access for equipment. They have been able to do some good work even in the winter weather. The blocking for the wall is already being made and Art has inspected 100 blocks and only had to refuse two for flaws. Much of the earth being excavated will be going to the Clarendon ball field on the other side of airport road for the town to be able to extend the field. This is a great win, win for the town and the contractors. The anticipated closure of May 1st for the crosswind runway is still on schedule. The more work that is done now before having to be closed down for weather the more time saved into the fall.

The position previously held by Ryan Ollis has been filled and the contractor should be active within a month. A new position to assist with airport operations in RUT has been approved and filled by Brian Pinsonault. Brian is the current manager of Middlebury airport and will keep those duties until a replacement is found.

There is continued conversation on the hangar development on the west side of the airfield. More should be able to be reported on regarding this at the next meeting.

The airport is still working on the possibility of having aerobatics competition in June. David Sternberg volunteered his time to help the Airport Manager in the organization of this event. The process will continue to move forward if/until the FAA says that the competition cannot be held.

The airport manager is moving forward with the signage which is a slow process just due to having to contract with providers for the signage before being able to secure act 250 permits.

The annual Table Top Emergence Exercise was held Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 6pm in the terminal building. Beth Winters, who is the emergence management executive from Rutland Regional Medical Center, was in attendance. She would like to have a table top exercise in August possibly in preparation for a full scale exercise in September. This will possible be in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security which was also represented at the meeting. Ed Bove mentioned that he may be able to provide some support to this event as well.

Conversation was had regarding the FBO having access to the AWOS information to be able to provide to pilots that call the FBO regarding this. The airport manager will talk to an FAA tech to see what might be able to be done.

New Business:

Guy Rouelle spoke for a couple minutes on the airport improvements. There has been 15 million dollars worth of improvements of the span of a five year period. All this work has fallen in line with the timelines provided by the FAA thanks to Chris Beitzel's careful management of the projects. With the safety area complete on the north end and the working being done on the south end it brings up many questions on the airplanes that could need the south end safety area and not have insurance to be able to pay for the damages that would be caused to the area if used as needed. Another improvement that will be of great benefit to all is the taxi way that will allow planes to taxi to runway one instead of having to back taxi on the runway.

Another improvement that the Airport is hoping to get is new snow removal equipment. The state is looking at purchasing a universal vehicle that would allow having a sweep and plowing on the same vehicle. This would help with time management in that the equipment would not need to be changed out and with man power as one person would be able to hand the vehicle. Now it takes two people to be able to hook and unhook the equipment from the current vehicle to switch between plow and sweeper.

Columbia expressed concerns over lost revenue in July and August where the funds were almost cut in half due to the construction on the northern runway causing decrease private enplanements. The airport manager will look into if there are any funds to try to help compensate this for the coming summer and is hoping that the aerobatics competition will provide some significant income for the FBO.

Marji Graf of the Okemo Chamber suggested that the airport committee get the chamber reps from Killington, Okemo and possible Stratton to come to a meeting, bring their respective mountain marketing directors or representatives from groups sales to have a conversation about how we can work together to bring tourist to the area. Marji and the airport manager will work together on this plan.

The airport manager is currently working on the Wild Life Management plan for the airport. This is a significant task and come on the heels of finishing and getting the Emergency plan approved by the FAA on the 17th of December.

EAA will be having a meeting in February after a bit of a break for the holiday season. The David Sternberg is going to have pamphlets made up that Green Mountain Flight School can have on hand to be able to provide to students and perspective students to be able to join the group.

The Civil Air Patrol is interested in hosting safety seminars at the airport. The airport manager is all for this and will keep the committee posted as to when these might take place. Most likely they would be held at the Civil Air Patrols building on the airport.

The airport manager encourage anyone who is interested in attending the Vermont Aviation Administration Committee meeting at Franklin Country Airport on February 12th to please join. This is an excellent place to have the ear of the state government and let them know what is happening in the RUT world of aviation. If anyone would like to car pool let Chris Beitzel know.

Cape Air and The Hangar Café are planning ahead for fun and would like to start talking about having an event for kids at the airport around Halloween. It would be great if all the different groups at the airport joined in. Feel free to share any ideas you may have regarding this with Tracy Adams or Charlotte Bunnell.

Next meeting will be held on 2/26/2015 at Noon in the terminal building. If you would like to have lunch from The Hangar Café please give a call at 770-1855 so they can be sure to have your lunch ready when you arrive for the meeting.