

Bennington Airport Committee Meeting Minutes  
7/28/2016

Meeting called to order at 1630. In attendance are Alex Kelly, Rob Luther, Chris Wright, Chris Beitzel, Chris Raymond, Dave Corey, Leik Myrabo, Matt Warren, Chuck Suss, and John Likakis

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

Airport Status – Chris B. said that the permitting for the RWY safety area extension, RWY resurfacing, and the TWY were going to be complete by the end of December. They should have all the bids in by Spring with a Notice to Proceed for summer 2017 construction. It is unknown how long the RWY will be down for. Alex mentioned that during that time he will move his operation to North Adams temporarily. John thought that Guy Rouelle has said that the RWY was going to be extended to 4000 feet. Chris said he didn't think so because the design is already 100% complete but he will ask Guy. Chris also stated that the airport has penetration issues and obstructions that may prevent it from extending the RWY. Rob said that the airport is currently being brush-hogged to clean up some of the vegetation and that on Tuesday there will be a person who is coming from vegetation control to clean up the weeds on the paved surfaces. Chris B. said that there will be crack-fill, seal, and paint touch up this summer.

BADC – John stated that he is setting up a meeting with Kathy Mclure from the SVSU to setup an education program for the airport. It would consist of a general STEM program, as well as a feeder system for Vermont Flying Academy. The programs will be for all levels of education as well as an adult education program. Chris R. mentioned that he is going to the NEA in Burlington and that he and John should have a conversation to discuss other opportunities. He also said that on Sept 24 they are going to have an Aviation Extravaganza at Knapp Airport that will include gliders, aerobatics, and hot air balloons, and all are welcome. Chris R. said he would help where ever he can, organizing, keeping it safe, and providing promo items. Reb mentioned that the website he built is up and running. John stated that he is working with different organizations on setting up daytrip packages for visitors to Bennington. He also mentioned that BADC is funding a bus for the August 13<sup>th</sup> event to allow visitors a free trip into Bennington during their stay.

Events – Leik said that insurance for the event is in place. It will be patterned after the Wings and Wheels event that Chris W. planned last year. It will be the grand opening of the Andy Anderson Build Center and will include a French toast breakfast then transfer into serving lunch around noon. They will be using raffle items that Chris W. procured last year and didn't use. Chris B. asked if Leik had pilots for Young Eagles and Leik answered not this year. Chris B. asked if maybe the EAA chapter in Springfield would help and Leik said he would ask and find out. Alex said that they could use his 152 for Young Eagles if they wanted to.

Sign – Leik said that the sign stated as an EAA project but that they are now getting help from CAP. It was originally going to be a 2D sign but Leik felt it didn't look right. So with help from Matt they stated making it into a 3D sculpture. It should be done in 2 weeks in time for the event. And after talking to a few people around the airport he has decided to keep it polished aluminum instead of the printed graphic as originally planned. Chris R. mentioned that on his way here he noticed that there was a lack of signage directing anyone to the airport and it was agreed that we need more.

Industrial Sites – Chris stated that a farmer has been growing a crop of corn on the airport property and asked the man if he wanted to start a land lease for the property. There was no answer about what he

had said. Chris also stated that the farmer couldn't grow corn near the airport because it is a wildlife attractant and could pose a hazard. Chris B. mentioned that he asked Mrs. VanWormer if she wanted to exit her lease for her hangar that is not currently being used. She has not answered yet. Alex said that he thinks the hangars should have the doors replaced and used as a T-hangar. Dave spoke up and said that if they put a folding door in there that wouldn't be enough room to put an aircraft in.

Build Center – Leik stated that EAA chapter has always wanted a facility to build aircraft, that they looked into the green hangar but that was torn down. And, was finally granted the opportunity with BADC. The center is being named after Andy Anderson a longtime lover of aviation and friend of the airport. He also mentioned that the grand opening would be on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Flight training – John said that he is trying to work out a deal with Team Flys from North Adams but it's moving at a snail's pace.

Eagle Eye FPV – It will be a club dedicated to quadcopter and RC Aircraft education and that it's a great way to put students in the cockpit cheaply and safely.

Chris W. asked who has the leases for the State hangar space and he was told that BADC does. He also asked if the Huey could still be kept in the hangar, Rob told him that they have a lease currently and that the Huey would be in there at least until December. He also said that he thought having people in the build center helping on the Huey would be a great help to John Miner.

Meeting adjourned at 1736.