

Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport Committee Meeting

March 30th, 2016

Attendance:

Christopher Beitzel, Marji Graf, Gary Joseph, Fred Nicholson, Lyle Jepson, Mike Davidson, Abbott de Rham, Joe Giancola, , Charlie Rockwell, Paul (flight school), Jason Owen, Guy Rouelle, (State lady), Amanda Carlo, and Tracy Adams

Minutes:

- Jason Owen gave an update on the construction work at the airport. Runway 1 safety area construction is 99% done it is just getting some finishing touches this spring. There will be ramp and runway painting projects this spring/summer during which workers will endeavor to disrupt airport operation as little as possible. In spring of 2017 major construction will begin on straighten out taxi way E to becoming taxi A which will be a parallel taxiway to 1/19. This construction will add a third retaining wall to the property and obviously cause E taxiway to be closed for about six months. Guy Rouelle added that with the future planning the movement of this taxiway will help to create more space more to the west of the current terminal building and ideas are out there to move the buildings between the current terminal building to the west side of the runway. This movement would create space for a new terminal building that and the current terminal building would become the FBO. As part of this plan the current state hangar would be moved to the west side of the airfield and the other buildings between the current terminal and the new taxi way would be dismantled.
- It was noted too that some may not realize that the airport has had \$30,000,000 worth of work done during the past four years with the phase projects that have been completed.
- Lyle Jepson has been working with the airport manager on hangar development on the west side of the air field. They are working on a business plan to be able to present different options of how hangar development would produce a profit for investors.
- The State is hoping to fill the Aviation Education Coordinator position possibly on Friday as there is a final interview scheduled. This is an extremely important position where the coordinator will participate in and promote activities at all of the state airports while getting the message out to the general public of what the different state airports have to offer.
- Okemo travel book is almost complete just need a little more information from the airport manager.
- Members of the committee asked if we could conduct a survey of who needs a rental car when they fly into Rutland. Cape Air staff kept track for the month of March and there were only two passengers and no walk up inquires. A greater issue is not having reliable taxis in the area to get passengers to their further destinations.
- The committee is still keep the World Cup competition at Killington for Thanksgiving weekend 2016 on the radar and will be chatting with Amanda Carlo from Cape Air separately about it.

- Amanda Carlo, Northeast Regional Marketing Manager, was up for the meeting and had lots of good news to report as far as a recent marketing promotion for \$49 one way fares from RUT to BOS. This three day sale doubled the number of reservations usually made during a three day time frame. This more targeted marketing is exciting and will remain a focus of Cape Air to reach focused catchments of passengers. Ridership has been up this winter due in part to having such a mild winter.
- The EAA is meeting monthly the first Tuesday of each month held in the terminal building from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The next big event is going to be a Young Eagle rally on Saturday the 30th of April.
- The flight school will be providing another ground school. Soon is it still undecided if this will be a one weekend class or one night for six weeks. The flight school is also looking at purchasing a simulator which would be a significant addition to the school.
- There is to be a new Rutland Chamber of Commerce head and Killington and Manchester are currently in transition also. When all is settled the airport manager will meet together with Marji Graf of the Okemo Chamber to continue the ongoing conversation of how we can increase air traffic into RUT.
- Joe Giancola spoke about getting AOPA to visit RUT and write an article about the revitalization of the airport over the last few years in an effort to get the word out about how nice the airport is and what a great destination it would make for general aviation and commercial passengers as well. Guy had some contacts he will try to get this process started.
- There will be emergency drills being performed on the airfield this weekend for fire safety. RRMC cooperation with the airport is in the process of putting together a disaster drill that will probably take place later this spring.