

**VERMONT AVIATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
FRANKLIN COUNTY AIRPORT
SWANTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 11, 2017**

ATTENDEES: Guy Rouelle, VTrans
Jason Owen, VTrans
Larry Lackey, VTrans
Scott Fortney, VTrans
Chris Beitzel, VTrans
Chris Raymond, VTrans
Jennifer Davis, VTrans
Juliann Sherman, VTrans
Michael Maskell, VTrans
Erik Filkorn, VTrans
Brian Pennisault, VTrans
Walter Striedeck, NBSA/Aerophoto
Rick Lucas, McFarland Johnson
Scott LeCount, McFarland Johnson
Michael Churchill, McFarland Johnson
George Coy, Franklin County Airport
John Fitzgerald, Franklin County Airport
Jim Mackay, Middlebury Airport
Dan Gauvin, Newport
Peter MacGillivry, Springfield Airport
Janice Peaslee, Caledonia Airport
Bob Furey, Hoyle Tanner
Jean Mongille, Hoyle Tanner
Heath Marsder, Jacobs
Morgan Drouin, Jacobs
Dave Corey, DDH
Ronald Mitchell

1. CALL TO ORDER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jennifer Davis called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Introductions were done.

The Aviation Council meeting was held in the EEA chapter building which was built with private funds and donations seven years ago. The building has classroom and meeting room space and is dedicated to Donald Taylor who paid the loan on the building in full himself. John Fitzgerald is the EAA chapter president.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 23, 2017

Action on the minutes was postponed until reappointments to the Aviation Council by the Governor's Office are done.

3. VERMONT AVIATION CHANGES AND UPDATE

Guy Rouelle reviewed the progress made by the Aviation Division in the last six years, noting the Aviation Division does more with little resources. To date 10 state airports that were in disrepair and to be closed have been rehabilitated and are now in a safe situation. Over \$70 million worth of development has been done. Leases have been expanded. The airports are sustainable and on a path of continued growth. Mr. Rouelle announced as of June 2, 2017 he will be leaving his position as Aviation Director, a job he loves, to work in the private sector developing airports. An acquisition company will be formed to fund the buildout of Newport and Springfield airports and the work being done at Highgate and Rutland.

4. ROUND ROBIN DISCUSSION

Highgate

George Coy reported the projects at Franklin County Airport include extending the taxiway and building more hangars (nine people have inquired about hangar space). The FBO is very busy. Fuel sales are up. The flight school is adding a fourth airplane to the fleet. There are currently 18 active students. More examiners are needed. There is only one active DAR to certify homebuilt airplanes. The FSDO is a mess. The FAA maintenance representative has not inspected the airport in 14 years.

Springfield

Pete MacGillivry stated a new lease needs to be in place at Hartness Airport. It is exciting to hear that Guy Rouelle will continue work in Springfield.

Walter Striedeck reported on events to be held at the airport including ACE camp (Jim Hagedorn to give rides in his P-51) and a glider instruction clinic with support from Vermont Aeronautics. The airport had good support for snow removal and welcomes the help from Guy Rouelle in the private sector. Mr. Striedeck congratulated Guy Rouelle on his great career and the culture and superb level of integration he brought to aviation. The job was well done and Godspeed going forward.

Middlebury

Jim Mackay reported the runway extension at Middlebury to 3,200' and widening to 10' is proceeding without issue. The parallel taxiway will be straightened and resurfaced. Tree removal is being done as needed. Mr. Mackay announced he completed his glider CFI certification and will be instructing for three days with CAP. Thanks and congratulations are extended to Guy Rouelle for the amazing aviation system he built. A path forward is needed to ensure continuity and to not lose nearly two decades of corporate knowledge.

Bennington

Dave Corey reported a nonprofit corporation was formed at Bennington to stimulate private enterprise on the airport. The maintenance shop at the airport is highly regarded. Flight instruction will begin this summer. The runway extension and taxiway projects will be done next year. It is hoped to add more businesses at the airport and create jobs.

Caledonia

Chris Raymond, Education and Safety Specialist in the Aviation Division and new pilot, reported the culture is coming back at the Caledonia Airport. Membership in the EAA Chapter has increased from three to 26 members in two years. An event called "Protect and Serve" will be held that brings together fire, police, the community, and the airport. There are improvements to facilities including new fencing. The pilots at the airport are starting a program for high school students to go to VTC for aviation and are getting instructional certification to be able to offer instruction at the airport.

Newport

Dan Gauvin reported construction at the airport is coming to completion. Jets are using the airport. Fuel sales are up. There is an airshow scheduled July 29 & 30, 2017. The airport is looking for a flight instructor and a part-time mechanic.

5. RPC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

No report.

6. STATEWIDE FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS*Rutland*

- The Rutland development plan will likely be funded.
- Much infrastructure has been built at the airport. The airport is the busiest state airport in Vermont.
- Work continues per the development plan (retaining wall and parallel runway). Primary runway and parking lot reconstruction are the next big projects

Middlebury

- The parallel taxiway and runway widening and extension are progressing. The runway is expected to reopen June 24, 2017.

Bennington

- Projects include the runway safety area and parallel taxiway.

Franklin County (Highgate)

- A new taxiway, apron, and taxi lane is to be built.
- Obstruction study and runway extension analysis will be done.

Caledonia

- Construction study and design for the primary runway and taxiway will be done.
- Tree obstructions will be cleared.

Morrisville-Stowe

- Development per the master plan continues. Developable land for hangars is limited so the state is looking to acquire land for hangar space.
- Private funds and bridge funds will finance the new terminal facility that will include a café/restaurant.

- There will be a flight school and helicopter emergency management service at the airport. Air charter operations will also continue.

Grants & Miscellaneous Information

- Grants have been submitted for work at Rutland, Middlebury, Morrisville-Store, Springfield, Bennington, Newport, and for fencing statewide. The total grant program is \$9.3 million.

7. AIRPORT SYSTEM AND POLICY PLAN

Rick Lucas and Scott LeCount with McFarland Johnson explained the scoring of the state airports into four categories based on facilities, runways, taxiways, lighting, hangars, tie downs, approach, support equipment, and operation services offered (fuel, terminal FBO, instruction, maintenance, avionics, de-icing, snow removal) to identify where resources should be invested. Historical data and comparison to national trends show the state airports with good investment and management exceed the statewide performance average. Vermont tax on aircraft sales will negatively impact growth in the number of jets and turbine aircraft in the state. The industry trend is in favor of jet and turbine growth. Vermont is consistent with the national trend, but does not have many jets. The Vermont policy needs to be changed to support jet and turbine growth. There are some areas of the state not served by aviation service, but the system airports are located by centers of economic activity and population. Runway length in Vermont falls into two categories – short and long. More airports have no lead fuel than Jet A. Few airports have precision approach. Next steps with the plan include the system activity forecast report and the performance analysis.

8. AVIATION EDUCATION

Chris Raymond explained the aviation education mission of reaching out to aviation and non-aviation communities through community outreach, cooperation with education (STEM), events at airports, and other fun activities such as a photo contest, statewide calendar, passport stamped with each airport visited in the state.

9. EAA CONSORTIUM UPDATE

John Fitzgerald noted the four chapters of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) are Caledonia, Rutland, Bennington, and Franklin County. EEA promotes aviation (Young Eagle flights). The chapters are growing. The chapters coordinate and cooperate with each other on events and ideas. The goal is to fly as many youth as possible and bring people to the airport to learn how to build aircraft.

10. FAA COMPLIANCE ORDER 5190.6c PROPOSED (EAA)

Not out for public notice yet.

11. AIRPORT FUEL PRICE DISCUSSION

Discussion tabled to the next meeting.

12. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Sales Tax

Aviation parts and labor are exempt from Vermont sales tax.

Firefighting Training

Firefighting training for fire departments located by airports is available.

Advice to Governor from Aviation Council on Aviation Director Replacement

There is great concern about losing decades of corporate knowledge and aviation in the state going backwards with the loss of the leadership of Guy Rouelle. The interim director is Trini Brassard. Discussions about replacement or changes to the Aviation Division have not been held as yet. The Aviation Council wants to be proactive in advising the Governor on filling the position of Aviation Director.

Remarks on Guy Rouelle

Jim MacKay said Guy Rouelle will be in the private sector under the structure of the Vermont Aviation Management Association (VMAA) to support political activism in support of aviation.

Jennifer Davis said the Aviation staff have been fortunate to work with Guy Rouelle who has the skills and experience and the desire to pass on his knowledge to the team. Staff will continue the work and looks forward to working with Mr. Rouelle in the private sector.

Guy Rouelle said it has been an honor to be Aviation Director, a job he loved, and in the private sector he will continue to drive on and give aviation a strong voice and ensure the aviation budget is not reassigned to other areas.

13. NEXT MEETING/AGENDA TOPICS

Next Meeting: August 10, 2017. Burlington Airport, Burlington

Agenda:

1. Fuel Price Convention
2. Systems Plan Update
3. Review of five year CIP

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Guy Rouelle, SECOND by George Coy, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM.

RScty: MERiordan