

AIRPORT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday – March 9, 2020

District #1: Maynard Curtis Business: Greg Peet Environmental: Vivian Newman
District #2: Roger Peabody Owls Head: Adam Philbrook (absent) Commercial Pilot: Katie Shaw
District #3: Dick Witherspoon Flying Club: Ron Vanosdol STH: Mike Florance (absent)
Airport Business: Shane Burns (absent)

Also present: Jeremy Shaw, Dorothy Meriwether, Kathy Allain, Ken Wexler, and Jan Gaudio

CALLED TO ORDER: Ron Vanosdol @ 4:31 PM.

RECOGNIZED GUESTS: NO COMMENTS

APPROVED January 13, 2020 MINUTES: Katie Shaw moved and Ron Vanosdol seconded to approve the minutes: **APPROVED: 5-1-0 (Maynard Curtis abstained because he was not present for the JAN meeting)**

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Community Relations: Kathy Allain stated that the frequency to provide updates would be quarterly. She will email to the APAC for approval, prior to publishing. She stated that she intended to use to items on the agenda today as the topics. Ron Vanosdol recommended that Kathy send out a draft to the APAC for comments, and if no comments were received, consider it approved.
2. Environmental Committee: Vivian Newman reported no update.

APAC NOMINATIONS:

1. Jan Gaudio, Bill Packard, and Roger Peabody were nominated and recommended to be presented to the Knox County Commissioners for 3-year appointments to the Airport Public Advisory Board. Jan Gaudio introduced himself to the committee. **APPROVED: Katie Shaw moved to send APAC recommendations to the County Commissioners for review, Greg Peet seconded. Vote 6-0-0**

AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATES:

1. CENERGY PROPOSAL:
The airport manager gave an update on CENERGY's proposal to install a 5MW solar development at the airport. Greg Peet stated that upon quick review of the agreement, insisted the airport was getting a bad deal. Greg explained that the option price was too low, and that we had no recourse once we signed the option agreement. Maynard Curtis stated that "it is better to miss a good deal than to sign a bad deal". The proposal raised more questions about the intentions of Cenergy to "flip" the project, rather than to enter into a long term relationship with the county. Maynard Curtis inquired about wetland impact, and it property abutters had been notified. The committee said that they had not received the proposal earlier enough to give it the time it deserved. Ron Vanosdol asked if there was a motion to move forward with the proposal, and no motion was made. **Ron Vanosdol proposed a motion "not sign the agreement" and asked for a show of hands. It was unanimous in its approval. Vote 5-0-0. (Katie Shaw had to leave to retrieve her children)**
2. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:
The airport manager provided an update regarding the Interlocal Agreement being offered to the Town of Owls Head. The agreement was awaiting final approval from the FAA. It would be provided to the town as soon as it was determined to be in compliance with current FAA guidance.

3. LEASE REVIEW:

The airport manager gave an update on the lease review he completed that identified a few areas where revenue was being left on the table.

4. LANDING FEES:

One source of revenue that the airport has not tapped into was the revenue generated by aircraft landing fees. The Airport Manager presented a new “Knox County Regional Airport Aircraft Landing Fee Program”. After short discussion it was unanimously approved and recommended to be sent to the County Commissioners for implementation. The program equitably and fairly charges non-based aircraft to land at the airport. **APPROVED 6-0-0**

5. MCEDD

The airport manager gave an overview of the Mid Coast Economic Development District. A new program utilized by the County, it helps municipalities access various grant programs.

6. PARKING PROGRAM:

7.

The airport manager recommended updating the Knox County Airport Vehicle Parking Program to include all vehicles parking on airport property instead of just the vehicles that were parking in the 3 designated areas. Pop-up “executive parking lots” were circumventing the county’s parking program. **The committee APPROVED the proposed updates 6-0-0**

8. CAMPGROUND:

The airport manager presented the idea of designing a fly-in campground on the flying club side of the airfield. It would include a gazebo, picnic tables, and tie-downs in the grass. It would be organized by the flying club to promote recreational aviation. Katie Shaw stated that there are no other facilities like this in the state, and Ron Vanosdol asked if there were going to be a need to take down any additional trees. The manager stated that the development would happen within the footprint of the existing grass areas.

9. OPEN HOUSE:

The airport manager gave the committee an update on the proposed Open House, made possible by a county approved budget line for \$750 designated for another community open house. Ron Vanosdol had suggested June 13th as a possible date to coincide with National Young Eagles Day. The airport manager was going to delay going to presto see what the effects of the COVID19 outbreak would be.

10. 2020 PROJECTS

The airport manager described the 2 AIP Projects occurring in 2020. Project 1 was Phase one of Hangar development, which will increase the hangar count at the airport by creating a new taxiway into the designated hangar development area. Project 2 was exploration and maintenance of the airport’s drainage ditches. The airport manager mentioned that there would be modifications of the hangar layout to mitigate wetland impacts. Ken Wexler asked if it was the intention to come before the planning board to build the taxiway to the “79’ mark. The airport manager stated that they would be to the best of his knowledge. The airport manager also identified the two projects that weren’t eligible for AIP funding in 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT QUESTIONS: Ken Wexler was recognized by Ron Vanosdol and he commended the new airport manager saying that:

“I felt like i walked into a different meeting, this is a pleasure, thank you for all of your optimism and plans, and involvement in the community, I think this is great.... I really feel optimistic about what I’m seeing”

MEETING ADJOURNED: Ron Vanosdol asked for a motion to adjourn, Katie Shaw made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Greg Peet. Unanimous approval to adjourn at 6:21 PM

NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2020 at 4:30.