

AIRPORT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday – January 11, 2021

District #1: Maynard Curtis Business: Greg Peet Environmental: Vivian Newman
District #2: Roger Peabody Owls Head: Adam Philbrook Commercial Pilot: Katie Shaw
District #3: Dick Witherspoon Flying Club: Ron Vanosdol STH: Jan Gaudio
Airport Business: Bill Packard

Members present: Ron Vanosdol, Dick Witherspoon, Katie Shaw, Roger Peabody, Bill Packard, Jan Gaudio
Non-members present: Jeremy Shaw (Manager) Dorothy Meriwether (Commissioner) Andy Hart (Administrator)

CALLED TO ORDER: Chair Vanosdol called the Zoom meeting to order @ 5:04PM.

RECOGNIZED GUESTS: Ken Wexler (public) Susan Deutsch (public) David Dinneen (public) Brad Ketcher (public) Ivan and Linda Garat (public) Kathy Allain (public)

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS: None

APPROVED Sept. 14 MINUTES: Chair Vanosdol called for approval for the minutes by a display of thumbs-up or thumbs down. The vote was unanimous to re-approve the minutes 6-0.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT UPDATE: The airport manager briefed the committee of the ongoing negotiations between the Town of Owls Head and the County. The special town meeting was postponed until April 19th due to COVID concerns. The delay of the town meeting and subsequent vote of approval/denial by the voters of Owls Head required the Commissioners to issue the required “Notice to Terminate” to the Town. The manager reported that an Ad Hoc committee was being formed to create a new agreement.

SELECT A TASK GROUP TO LOOK AT BENNER LANE OPPORTUNITY: After the discussion at the previous meeting, the APAC wanted to formally establish a task group to look at the possibility of purchasing the Benner Lane property from the Owls Head Transportation Museum. Katie Shaw made a motion that the APAC form a subcommittee and make a recommendation on the potential purchase of the property and if it would conflict with the Interlocal Agreement that is currently in place. Jan Gaudio seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0.

SOLAR LEASE WITH OHTM: Chair Vanosdol asked the manager for an update on the Solar Project regarding the Transportation Museum. Jeremy reported that the feasibility and system impact study had been completed on the 68 acre parcel that airport owns. However, the potential vernal pools discovered on the property jeopardize the solar development on that parcel. He also reported that the 5 Megawatt development is most likely out of the question, but it will take a vernal pool determination in April to decide the fate of the development. The other option that the County is exploring is the use of land currently owned by the Transportation museum. Jeremy reported that a development on that parcel would be around two and a half Megawatts. Dick Witherspoon recommended that we pursue the project until we can go no further. Katie Shaw asked about the 14 acre parcel on the approach to runway 21, and inquired why that wasn't viable. Jeremy responded that because of the wetland on the property, and its location, it wouldn't be suitable for development. Chair Vanosdol asked if either Commissioner Meriwether or Administrator Hart wished to voice an opinion. Commissioner Meriwether advised that she would just be listening to the discussion this evening. Andrew Hart reported that the County had begun to draft a lease agreement with the County, but upon notification from the FAA that CARES Act and Airport Revenue cannot be used on property not owned by the Airport. Katie Shaw made a motion that the airport pursue the project until we can't pursue is anymore. Chair Vanosdol recommends the committee develop goals and objectives for pursuing solar. Motion passed 6-0. Chair Vanosdol asked about contingency plans in case the \$10 million doesn't get used for solar. Jeremy reminded the committee of the large 22 project list that was approved early in 2020.

AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATES:

2020 Project Updates:

- Airport manager has nothing to report

2021 Project Updates:

- Drainage Phase II, lining culverts delayed for funding delays
- Terminal Hangar on track, permitting has been approved.
- Crew House Replacement, waiting on design/permitting
- Safety Area Grading, waiting for funding
- Gate upgrades and fence repair project waiting for Development Grant Applications.
- Airspace survey, flight conducted, waiting for a final report
- Pavement Management Program in draft form
- HVAC deemed Operational and Maintenance and given green light
- Hub Server project to compliment County resources underway
- Solar, figuring out land issues
- Taxi Lane project hoping to start in May
- 2021 AIP update, front mounted runway broom and replacement small truck, plow, and sander

CARES Act funding reimbursements update:

- Manager reported that \$1,712,000 reimbursed by CARES Act to date
- Andrew Hart asked if the manager would give an update on the HVAC system in the terminal. Jeremy reported that the HVAC project is considered an operational and maintenance expense and can move forward. Mr. Hart also asked about how much money would be freed up if the solar project doesn't go forward. Jeremy reported about \$6 million dollars.

Landing Fee Program Implementation:

- The airport manager reported that the FAA determined that our Landing Fee Program does not conflict with the CARES ACT funding, and recommended its implementation. Jeremy said he hoped that it would be implemented by March 2021.

DISCUSS APAC MEMBER SELECTION TIMETABLE: Manager Shaw read the timetable as was written in the APAC's bylaws. He reported that Maynard Curtis in the District #1 Seat would be relinquishing his seat on the committee, but has not heard from the other three yet. Bill Packard made a motion to approve the timetable and forward it to the commissioners. Jan Gaudio seconded the motion, and it was approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ken Wexler stated a "Kudos" to Jeremy for implementing the Landing Fee Program. He clarified that he didn't think it was intended as a deterrent, but instead a great way for the County to raise money. Ken reported that there is an ad hoc committee being formed to help educate the voters of Owls Head about airport matters. Bill Packard recommended more small press releases.

Kathy Allain wanted to be involved on the committee looking at the viability of the solar project, and wanted to know if it is time to start putting out press releases. Jeremy reported that it would be a great time to start doing that. Ron Vanosdol recommended another joint meeting with the Commissioners. Jan Gaudio requested a broadband update from the manager.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Roger Peabody proposed a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Bill Packard. Unanimous approval to adjourn at 6:01 PM

NEXT MEETING: March 8, 2021 at 5pm.