

**AIRPORT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Monday – February 7, 2022

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District #1: Brad Ketcher	Business: Jeff Northgraves	Environmental: Linda Garat
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 via Zoom:** Ron Vanosdol, Dick Witherspoon, Brad Ketcher, Jeff Northgraves, Linda Garat, Roger Peabody

Non-members present: Jeremy Shaw (Manager) Andrew Hart (County Administrator) Dorothy Meriwether (County Commissioner)

**CALLED TO ORDER:** Chair Ron Vanosdol called the meeting to order @ 5:00PM.

**RECOGNIZED GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** Ken Wexler (OHAAC), David Dineen (Gayle Associates), Lauren Swartzbaugh (OHAAC) There were no public questions or comments.

**Act to approve the Minutes from November 8<sup>th</sup>, and January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Roger Peabody made a motion to approve the minutes, Linda Garat seconded the motion. Chair Vanosdol called for a vote. Jeff Northgraves and Roger Peabody abstained, and the rest voted to approve. The motion passed **4-2-0**

**Act to approve the timeline and press release for nominations for expiring APAC terms:** The manager notified the APAC that there were 3 seats expiring this year on the APAC, and those seats were the Owls Head seat, the Flying Club seat, and the Commercial Pilot Seat. A member asked who receives notifications to help fill the vacancies, and the manager reported that he would be notifying the Town of Owls Head, the Flying Club, and the on-airport business partners. Jeff Northgraves made a motion to approve the timeline, and seconded by Roger Peabody. Chair Vansodol called for a vote. The vote was unanimous, 6-0.

**Act to review and amend the APAC Bylaws as recommended by the County’s Attorney:** After the APAC elected to adopt a remote participation policy, it created a conflict in the APAC Bylaws. After review by legal, James Katsiaticas made several suggestions to update the policy and bring it up to date. The two major recommendations Atty. Katsiaticas recommended were in the Remote Participation section, and the Voting section. In the Remote Participation section he recommended that 6 members be present to qualify for a quorum. The current policy calls for “not less than one half”. The issue at hand is most boards usually have an odd number of seats on a board for tie breaker purposes. The APAC, however, has 10 seats. In the Voting section, he recommended eliminating the voting by electronic method. Jeff Northgraves and Roger Peabody both objected to change in the quorum numbers required. Brad Ketcher made a motion to amend the Bylaws as recommended. Jeff seconded the motion. Chair Vanosdol called for a vote. Linda Garat, Dick Witherspoon and Brad Ketcher voted for the motion, Jeff Northgraves, Roger Peabody, and Ron Vanosdol voted in opposition. The motion failed 3-3. After the motion failed, Attorney Katsiaticas asked what would the committee like to see changed in the policy to be able to update it. Jeff Northgraves said that the quorum should be considered 5 members present, and that a “majority” should be considered an approval if the majority of members present vote on an issue. Attorney Katsiaticas agreed to amend the policy and bring it back before the committee in March.

**Act to make a recommendation to the Knox County Commission whether or not to purchase the Benner Lane hangar complex:** The airport manager gave an overview of the Benner Lane property, and reminded the committee of the recommendation from the sub-committee to move forward with the purchase. The airport manager stated that the Museum had completed a real estate appraisal on the property, and the Museum was asking \$775,000. Member Jeff Northgraves stated that the County at one point was offered the property for free. The airport manager was asked about the financial impact of the property to the airport’s budget. The airport manager reported that it would create approximately \$12,000-\$14,000 in extra revenue for both the Town and the County not including excise tax. Brad Ketcher stated that he did not believe that this was the right time to consider purchasing the property. Jeff Northgraves made to motion to recommend to the Knox County Commission, the purchase of the Benner Lane hangar complex. Roger Peabody seconded the motion. Chair Vanosdol called for a vote. The vote was 5-1 in favor of the motion, with Brad Ketcher voting in opposition.

**Act to approve the installation of an electric aircraft charging station at the Knox County Airport:** The airport manager briefed the committee on the signed Letter of Intent (LOI) between Penobscot Island Air and an electric aircraft manufacturer in California. He also stated that Cape Air is also aggressively pursuing electric aircraft, and that the airport is well positioned to begin seeing these types of aircraft in the late fourth quarter of 2022. Brad Ketcher made a motion that they recommend the installation of an electric aircraft charging station at the Knox County Airport. Linda Garat seconded the motion. Chair Vanosdol called for a vote. The vote was unanimous in support of the motion.

**Airport Manager Updates:**

- **Terminal Hangar:** Most of the foundation is complete, and the airport was anticipating the arrival of the building in March. Everything is on schedule. The scheduled completion of the building is on track for the end of September.
- **Penobscot Island Air Flight School:** Penobscot Island Air began the flight school in the beginning of February, and already has 12 students. Using a Cessna Skyhawk 172, it has 2 full-time flight instructors on staff.
- **PIA Letter of Intent:** The airport manager stated that he had already updated the committee on this matter in an earlier topic.
- **Airport Operation Facility:** The Ops Facility was scheduled to be shingled in the next couple of weeks, and then interior framing would begin. The contractor was a couple weeks behind because of weather and labor shortages.
- **Fence, Gates, and Flying Club Internet:** The airport manager stated that the project is in winter shutdown, and it should begin again in April. The contractor in charge of the internet connection states that they have the equipment, but have been unable to install it so far. The manager hoped that it would be completed soon.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** There were questions or comments.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Ron Vanosdol adjourned the meeting at 6:15

**NEXT MEETING:** March 14th, 2022 via Zoom, at 5pm.