

Minutes of Airport Commission Meeting

Wednesday January 9, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Draft subject to review, correction and approval at the next meeting.

Committee Members Present: Selectboard Representative Dick Guy, Cliff Batchelder, Tom Friel, Peter Kimball

Members Excused: Stuart McDanolds, Mike Bonanno and Dennis Cunningham

Members of the Public Present: Winston Currier, Susie Tann, Sandy Mann, Doug Henson, Bart Mann

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Consent Agenda: November and December meeting minutes are not on the Town website and Tom Friel stated he would address the issue. There was a motion made to accept the previous meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None at this time.

It was suggested that a video camera be set up to assist in tallying flights. If the airport commission could find a location for the camera and mark it, a camera could be provided if there is no room in the budget for one. Potential locations for the camera are the wind-sock or adjacent to any of the runway lights.

There was discussion about the airport house and whether it had salvage value, as it has been vacated. It was stated that a year ago, there was a plan to erect a building funded 95% by the FAA that would serve both as storage and a lounge area for pilots. It was suggested that the house could be gutted to the frame while bringing the wiring up to code, removing the mold and using it as a storage facility. Because the house is vacant, \$8,000 of rent is lost per year. There was a discussion about the potential historical value of the house. It was questioned whether another committee, commission or Town entity could benefit from the house. Another suggestion was to build a six-plane hangar in effort to get more pilots, which may cost around \$160,000. Tom Friel stated that he could contact Senator Bob Giuda and Benoit Lamontagne and ask for their recommendations on the issue.

There was a short discussion identifying concern about the airport manager's articles in the newspapers. Per the Town Manager, the Airport manager will no longer be speaking on behalf of the Airport Commission in newspapers.

It was explained that the tractor and snow blower went out to bid through Mark Goodridge. The price offered by the sole bidder was \$60,000 which was accepted and awarded. Two months later, a bill was received for \$72,000 for the tractor and the snow blower and it was realized that the bill had been sent to the Town Office and paid six months prior. Another tractor that was a

year and a half old had a drastic decrease in trade-in-value. The Airport manager is supposed to sign off on all purchases.

Tom asked if the Airport budget will allow the trial to continue for the second week and it was stated that there is not enough money in the budget to fund the lift for the second week. Susie Tann stated she thinks that another week would be beneficial. Tom also mentioned that the beacon is not in its proposed permanent position and it seems redundant, as it is only 20 feet east of its previous location. Susie recommends that the Airport Commission attend the next Selectboard meeting to discuss the beacon, as there is mis-communication occurring with the Airport Manager. Tom asked the Airport Commission if there is a generator available for use. The Commission stated that because there are no funds available for 2019 to continue beacon trials, a generator could be found for future beacon trials in 2020. Lastly, on behalf of the Beacon Review Committee, Tom asked that the Airport Commission notify the public of the dates and location of future trials and to verify that that the trial met all the design criteria as described by the FAA. Susie Tann added that any changes to the trial, including change of location, should be advertised on WYKR.

Sandy Mann asked why the beacon is visible in some locations for a few hours, then no longer visible and it was explained that this is likely due to meteorological and/or atmospheric conditions.

It was asked why the Airport Commission is not going to the Town to request funds to continue the beacon trial and it was explained that these funds were not in the budget. Tom Friel stated that ITM Glenn English is working on the budget and the Airport Commission chairman could discuss this with him.

It was stated there are vacancies on the Airport Commission.

Susie Tann asked for clarification on the relationship between the Airport Commission and the Airport Manager, as there seems to be a disconnect amongst them. The Airport Manager is an employee of the Town whose supervisor is the Town Manager. The Airport Manager is not a member of the Airport Commission.

Sandy Mann stated that some residents will be “tortured” by the affect the beacon light will have on their homes. Limited comments have been received so far throughout the trial.

It was asked if a lift could be found that could be used at no cost, would it be okay if the test proceeded to the second week. The consensus was to ask if one is available and the Commission will decide once they hear back.

There was a motion to appoint Dick Guy as the chairman of the Airport Commission, Stuart MacDanolds as vice-chairman and Cliff Batchelder as secretary. Tom Friel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourn: Tom Friel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 P.M. The motion was seconded by Peter Kimball and carried unanimously.

Minutes produced by Katie J. Williams.