

## **Minutes of Airport Commission Meeting**

**Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Committee Members Present:** Selectboard Representative Tom Friel, Airport Manager Dennis Cunningham, Peter Kimball, Chairman Dick Guy and Secretary Cliff Batchelder.

**Members of the Public Present:** Winston Currier, Susie Tann, Stuart MacDanolds, Doug Henson

*Note: Transcriber did not receive a copy of the sign-in sheet. People listed above are only those who the transcriber heard speak.*

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

**Consent Agenda:** Tom made a motion to review the previous meetings minutes at the next meeting. The motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Chairman Guy stated that the E.D. doctor that is considering coming to work at Cottage is interested in flying into the airport regularly around 7am, as he lives outside of the area. There was discussion about the fog conditions during that time at the airport and how the conditions could be determined.

**Airport Beacon Discussion:** Susie Tann stated the Beacon Review Committee analyzed the comments received regarding the testing that took place in October and January and discovered that 95.4% of comments were in opposition of the beacon. Main reasons for opposition include pollution of the night sky, the beacon shining directly on properties, wildlife concerns, property values, rural ambiance/character, and health concerns. Tom Friel explained that if an individual made more than one comment, they were only counted once. Susie explained that comments were solicited by a newspaper ad. It was suggested by a member of the public that if the beacon is important to the airport, it be supported but if not, it be voted down. Bart Mann explained that at a previous meeting with a group of invited pilots, they expressed they did not believe the beacon was necessary for the Dean Memorial Airport. Susie added that the pilots stated the Airport needs more people utilizing it and suggested increasing fuel sales and hangar rentals. The group of pilots stated the day-time activity at their Airport needs to be developed, before putting focus on the evening activity. The Commission discussed policies and potential contingencies of accepting federal funds. Chairman Guy identified three recommendation options which included a recommendation to the Selectboard to move forward with the Beacon and apply for federal assistance, not to move forward with the beacon or a newly mentioned idea which would involve a pilot activated beacon. Guy explained that the pilot-activated beacon would not be on all the time and would be activated by a pilot with radio capabilities when in range. Tom Friel suggested the Commission re-evaluate the options and come back with a plan. It was also suggested that the Commission evaluate their options with long-term effects in mind. Stuart MacDanolds expressed confusion with why some people who complain about the 300watt

beacon have yard lights that illuminate all night long. Dick stated that the Commission has not had a chance to mitigate any of the complaints written/mailed in. Dick would like to explore the idea of connecting with other local Airport Manager's to hear about their experiences with beacons. Doug Henson requested that the lights on the bio-diesel plant be baffled so they don't wash onto his property. The Commission will investigate this matter to see what can be done. Susie Tann explained that people value the night sky and consider it an asset, and she is not sure how this concern could be mitigated. Chairman Guy explained that a two-week beacon trial would cost about \$1,000 if a man lift was used. Bart Mann suggested that the Selectboard, Airport Commission and Beacon Review Committee meet collectively to discuss the beacon, create a plan and present it to the Public. It was suggested that rather than renting a man-lift for two weeks, it could be bolted to the building with the use of a man-lift instead. Susie asked if this would be a potential permanent location. Discussion ensued on other possible locations, including near Lynn Perry's hangar. Locations are limited, as power is required. Doug Henson suggested utilizing the new building at the Industrial Park as a power source for the beacon. Dick Guy made a motion that the Airport Commission continue with the beacon test. The motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously.

Doug Henson has a game camera that he is willing to put up to assist in counting the amount of airplane activity at the airport. Dennis Cunningham is concerned with the flash that most game cameras have at night. Chairman Guy stated if the game camera is located at mid-point, airplanes should be captured.

**Meeting Adjourn:** A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tom Friel and it carried unanimously.

*Minutes produced by Katie J. Williams.*