

SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 2013, at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Chairman Jeff Reed.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Jim Hickin, Sussex County Airport (Non-member-Delegate for Mike Izzo)
Julie Wheatley, Director, Sussex County Economic Development
Gus Croll Garrett Dernoga Rick Garner Jeff Reed Richard Wilson

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council Todd Lawson, Sussex County Administrator
Mike Izzo, Sussex County Engineer Larry Kelley
Mark Ryan

1. Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Rick Garner, seconded by Jim Hickin, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

2. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Jim Hickin, seconded by Richard Wilson, to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

3. Declaration of any letters, opinions or other guidance from outside the Advisory Committee presently or in the past

There were no declarations or letters presented.

4. Wings and Wheels Update

It was stated that the event was a success and that bus transportation issues were recognized as a problem. The Wings & Wheels committee will work on a resolution for this problem next year.

5. Wildlife Management Update

Jim commented on the following issues:

The deer and geese sightings are down. Jim informed the committee the new wildlife creature that may be present in the area is the Snowy White Owl. It has been seen at Dover Air Force Base and Seashore State Park. They are a protected bird and an airport environment may be a preferred setting for these birds.

6. Airport Update

Jim Hickin discussed the following updates:

- A. Jim provided an update on the Runway Extension project which included substantial completion of Package 1 with just a few punch items to complete in the Spring of 2014. Package 2 which includes MALS and moving both sets of PAPI's will begin in March/April 2014.
- B. Concrete Apron- The patch/repair project for the area will begin in the Spring and will be done in two phases to minimize disruption.
- C. Airfield Lighting Projects- Replace lights on Taxiway A to LED lighting and add lighting to the Northwest side of Taxiway A.
- D. Additional 500 ft' Runway Extension- DelDOT is in process of performing an environmental assessment for moving Park Ave. FAA will not be funding this extension.
- E. Julie commented that DelDot is working on a Priority Project List which will be compiled based on a set criteria of importance. Julie will send a link to Susan regarding this which will be distributed to the committee members.
- F. Jeff inquired about the trees on 22 Approach- Jim will look into it.

7. Delaware Gasoline Tax Discussion

Garrett Dernoga stated that he has nothing new to report. He has still not heard anything from Representative Ruth Briggs King regarding this issue.

8. Airport Business Plan Update

Jim Hickin informed the group that the Airport Business Plan is complete and he has emailed the members the plan for their review and comments. After some discussion among the committee members regarding the plan, Jim reminded the committee that this plan is just a recommendation from the State and has not been adopted by Sussex County Council. Jim also noted that some items mentioned in the business plan have been ongoing such as hangar development and seeking potential tenants for the industrial park. Some points of discussion that were included in the plan were a possible name change/branding for the airport and airport personnel training. It was decided the committee would review the plan and bring back comments to the next meeting.

Jim also informed the committee that in addition to the Airport Business Plan the consultant had also performed a statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study.

Jim reminded the committee that the members' terms expire at the end of December and if anyone does not wish to serve next year to please let him know.

9. Public Comments

Ray Hopkins spoke about the possible airport name change and business plan being a positive significant piece of the economic future. He also expressed concern about lack of official training for the airport maintenance personnel as stated in the Airport Business Plan. Additionally, regarding Wings & Wheels, Mr. Hopkins estimated there were approximately 8,000 people in attendance.

Gerald Wingate asked if he could be a volunteer and use a golf cart as shuttle for Wings & Wheels 2014. He also inquired about a ditch project the county is working on.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Georgetown, Delaware.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rick Garner, Seconded by Gus Croll. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician
Sussex County Airport