

DELAWARE COASTAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Delaware Coastal Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. on April 23, 2025, at 21911 Rudder Lane, Georgetown, Delaware by Committee Chairman, Rick Garner.

Advisory Committee Members Present:	Todd Lawson, County Admin.	Dustin Berlinger
Mark Parker, Asst. County Engineer	Rick Garner	Jeff Reed
Ray Hopkins	Mark Ryan	Scott Thomas
Bill Pfaff, Econ. Dev. Director	Larry Kelley	

Mark Parker, Asst. County Engineer, filled in for Bob Bryant, Airport Manager who was unable to attend the meeting.

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Matt Lloyd, County Council and Ezra Rickards

1. Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Larry Kelley, and seconded by Mark Parker, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Larry Kelley seconded by Scott Thomas, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025, meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

3. Wildlife Management Update:

Mark informed the committee of wildlife issues and stated Bob is continuing with the bangers and screamers pyrotechnics for the birds and stated a few deer have been removed that were spotted. Mark stated that the County is in the process of doing a full perimeter check of the fencing to identify any compromised areas that need attention. The goal moving forward is to be more proactive for repairs needed instead of reactive.

4. Airport Update:

Mark Parker provided airport updates as follows:

- (a) Taxiway Bravo work started on April 15th and the contractor said this will be a 202-day project. The taxiway is currently partially shut down for a short duration to accommodate drainage pipe installation. The project should wrap up by late November according to the current schedule. Mark also mentioned the construction project will be temporarily shut down for a few days in early October to accommodate the Wings & Wheels event.
- (b) Another upcoming project initiative is the restriping of RW 4-22, RW 10-28 and Taxiway Delta. This is a 75-day project. There will be times when the runway will be shut down, but no timeframes have been

set at this time. As soon as this is determined based on contractor schedule, an email blast will go out to all tenants. This project should start in the mid-May timeframe.

- (c) Chesapeake Utilities will be extending natural gas within the Business Park and Airport, with the goal of providing service connections to twelve buildings owned by County and/or airport tenants. This project was approved and funded two years ago as part of a Customer Advance Agreement. The final plans are almost complete and once the contractor availability arises, they will begin construction work. The gas piping will be installed by trenchless directional drilling within critical airport operations areas and under existing pavement so there is no surface disturbance in these areas. The drill pits will be outside of the object free area, not in the safety zone. There has been no timeframe given at this time, but it is anticipated that work will begin sometime in the Summer. We will be sure to let all tenants know as we get timelines of the starting date. It is anticipated that additional service connections can be added in the future if demand warrants.
- (d) The County is looking to start an Aerospace Obstacle Mitigation project associated with RW 4-22. This initiative is aimed at trimming/removing trees on County-owned property off the end of RW 4. This will be a 30–45-day project and should be completed by mid-Summer. This project will have no impact on aircraft within the airport operations area. Once this project is completed, the goal would be to do a re-fly the area and update the overall runway approach mapping to assess other (off-airport) areas that may require mitigation activities.
- (e) Ron Verosko gave an update on the hosted access control gate program. He stated the test gate by Sussex Aero Maintenance was installed and has been tested by several users and is working as planned. The A-phones that were installed at the FBO desk and on Patty's desk are hooked up and operational. Ron has talked with the Georgetown Fire Department, and they are happy with the progress for emergency access. We will be installing 2 new squawk boxes and will issue cards to emergency personnel. He stated within the next two weeks other gates will be updated and by the end of May hope to have them operational.

5. Public Comments:

- (1) Bill Pfaff introduced Andrew Harton as the County's Economic Development Manager.
- (2) There were several comments from the public regarding safety at the airport and additional card access to tie in with the new gate program. This issue was directed at the walk-thru gates and the terminal building. Suggestions were made by several members of the Committee as well that will be further investigated.
- (3) There were several comments from the public regarding the possibility of more T-hangars and latent space demand, as well current T-hangar rental rates.
- (4) Larry Kelley stated they are filming a 6-part documentary for the 80th anniversary of WWII that he is involved in for the Chinese National Government.

6. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6 p.m. at 21911 Rudder Lane (EOC), Georgetown, DE.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ray Hopkins, seconded by Dustin Berlinger. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: *Patty Bodenweiser - Delaware Coastal Airport*