

DELAWARE COASTAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Delaware Coastal Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:01 p.m. on March 22, 2023, at 21769 Aviation Avenue, Georgetown, Delaware by Airport Manager, Bob Bryant.

Bob introduced Austin Gray from Delaware Dept. of Transportation. Austin serves on the Delaware Aviation Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee Members Present:	Doug Hudson, County Council	Garrett Dernoga
Mark Parker, Asst. County Engineer	Rick Garner	Larry Kelley
Ezra Rickards	Mark Ryan	Scott Thomas

Bob Bryant, Airport Manager, Delaware Coastal Airport, non-member

Advisory Committee Members Absent:	Todd Lawson, County Administrator	
Bill Pfaff, Econ. Dev. Director	Ray Hopkins	Jeff Reed

1. Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Garrett Dernoga, and seconded by Scott Thomas, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

2. Election of Officers

Nominations were taken for the position of Chairman. Doug Hudson nominated Garrett Dernoga and seconded by Mark Parker. Nominations were closed. Garrett was elected Chairman by acclamation. At this time, the Chairman opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Larry Kelley nominated Ezra Rickards, seconded by Doug Hudson. Nominations were closed. Ezra Rickards was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

3. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Rick Garner, seconded by Mark Parker, to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022, meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

4. Wildlife Management Update

Bob informed the committee with the upcoming summer months approaching, there are a few waterfowl birds on the airport and one deer. He is using pyrotechnics to deter the birds. We have resources in place to remove deer.

5. Airport Update

Bob Bryant provided airport updates as follows:

- 1- **New 9 Unit T-Hangar Project:** On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, Sussex County Council approved a bid for construction of a new 9 unit T-Hangar. Two separate bids were sought. Whayland Company was awarded the purchase and construction of the building in the amount of \$467,900. A Del was awarded the concrete/site work in the amount of \$319,900. Total amount of the project is \$787,890. Due to a 15-year payback required on the project, T-Hangar rent is expected to be \$800 a month, which includes built in maintenance funds. The project is expected to begin within the next couple months. Effort will be made to have the project completed before the Wings and Wheels event is held.
- 2- **Airport Master Plan Update:** The Master Plan is progressing. Several meetings have been held with McFarland and Johnson, the consultant, and with FAA on the project. Bob provided the committee with a handout which featured the Master Plan Runway design alternatives in consideration with the relocation of Park Avenue. The preferred developmental goal is to have a 7,305 ft runway with 6,805 feet for takeoffs.

Bob discussed efforts in working with Senator Carper's office in writing a legislative "fix" that we are hoping will appear in FAA's Reauthorization bill. This will create a pilot program where Non-Primary (GA) Commercial Service Airports that have an existing and immediate need to extend their runway that do not meet or exceed the FAA's Federal order permitting an extension of the runway that an airport can submit an application under the pilot program, be selected and begin the runway extension earlier.

Doug Hudson announced that Sussex County has been working with Senator Coons or Senator Carper's office to earmark \$22 million funds toward the Airport runway extension.

Bob announced that Delaware Aviation Advisory Committee wants to set up an FAA Aviation Conference with the State of Delaware and FAA in October 2023. More information to follow.

Patty Bodenweiser, Airport Office, was introduced to the committee who will be replacing Susan when she retires.

6. **Public Comments** – Brian White inquired as to why Turf Operations was removed from the agenda. Bob stated the item is off the agenda but not out of mind. The current priority is the completion of the Master Plan with the deadline approaching. Several comments were made on this topic.

7. **Next Meeting Date** - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 6 p.m. at 21769 Aviation Avenue (Aircraft Hangar), Georgetown, DE.

A motion to adjourn was made by Doug Hudson, seconded by Scott Thomas. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk IV- Delaware Coastal Airport