

# **SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2012

## **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:03 p.m. on March 28, 2012, at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Chairman, Jeff Reed.

## **Advisory Committee Members Present:**

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council  
Todd Lawson, Sussex County Administrator  
Mike Izzo, Sussex County Engineer  
Julie Wheatley, Director, Sussex County Economic Development

Rick Garner   Larry Kelley   Jeff Reed   Mark Ryan   Richard Wilson   Robert E. Young

Jim Hickin, Sussex County Airport (Non-member)

## **Advisory Committee Members Absent:**

Garrett Dernoga

### **1.      Approval of Agenda**

A Motion was made by Rick Garner, seconded by Larry Kelley, 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 Bob Young, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2012 meeting as distributed. 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**

Jim Hickin shared that he had been in contact with Craig Fuller, President of AOPA, and he had expressed that he “loves” the Sussex County Airport.

### **4.      Public Comments**

Everett Bennett presented a Powerpoint presentation regarding user fees and the damage the extra costs will impose on airport users. Also included in the presentation were negative comments about the airport manager. Todd Lawson interrupted during Mr. Bennett’s comments and at that point Jeff Reed, as Chairman, also interceded and said if there is a general point to be made for the committee that’s fine, but there will be no more

personalization. The committee agreed that it was an inappropriate presentation and after some discussion it was suggested for the subject of “Guidelines for Presentations” to be added to the next meeting agenda.

**5. Emergency Response**

Rick Garner stated that there was nothing new to report on this issue.

**6. Wings & Wheels Update**

Larry Kelley informed the committee that there was nothing new to report. The committee had only had one meeting. The date of the event is the first Saturday in October which will be October 6, 2012, with a rain date of October 7, 2012.

**7. Wildlife Management Update**

Deer: Jim Hickin advised the committee that we have not harvested any deer and due to fawning season they probably would not resume harvesting operations until the fall. The deer population seems to have decreased at this time, possibly due to the fence being down for construction. The latest number to report for deer has been around 4, and most of the time only one has been seen.

Geese: We have started seeing geese return and we will start exercising the nest/egg depredation permit to try to keep geese population down.

Vultures: Vultures are protected by the Migratory Bird Act and we can’t shoot them. Jeff Reed advised committee if there is an eagle strike you have to contact Fish and Wildlife.

Mark Ryan reported that the wildlife problems at PATS seem to be resolved at this point in time.

**8. Motor Fuel Tax**

Rick Garner stated that he had contacted Representative Short and that he will forward Rick’s information to a couple other legislators. He has nothing new to report at this time. It is still not expected for any action to be taken this year on any legislation.

**9. Airport Update**

Todd Lawson informed the committee that a grant from DEDO (Delaware Economic Development Office) for \$3.7 million has been awarded for the additional 500 ft. (in excess of the original 500 ft.) runway extension. The paperwork is being processed so that, when the other contingent funding has been secured, these monies will be readily available.

Jim Hickin discussed the following updates:

- A. Runway 4-22 Extension: Design is being finalized for the first 500 ft. and will go out to bid in April. Bids will be opened May 18, 2012. Construction to begin this summer.
- B. Taxiway A Rehabilitation: A preconstruction meeting will be held Thursday, March 29, 2012. Jim will keep everyone up to date via email. This milling and paving project will affect tenants and aircraft from Terminal Building down Rudder Lane. The county will be working with tenants of Rudder Lane to find alternate parking for their aircraft while the work is being performed. The county will rebate monthly rent payments for tenants on Taxiway A due to their lack of hangar access.
- C. Taxiway B (old 13-31): Will be repaved this summer and there will be a Pre-Bid meeting will be held Friday, March 30, 2012.
- D. Rudder Lane –Drainage project is in process to ease the flooding in the area. The project is on schedule.
- E. Jim Hickin advised the group that the Naval Academy Parachuting team has received approval to do drops which will start mid-April thru the fall and will occur on the weekends. The parachutists are trained military personnel. This should help with fuel sales and restaurant services. Larry Kelley cautioned about allowing parachutists to perform jumps as it could be opening a can of worms. Jeff Reed asked if the next request for parachuting arises that the Advisory Committee to hear it first. Jim replied that parachuting is aeronautical activity and is allowed. Jim stated that their activity will be monitored for safety issues or problems and addressed when they occur.
- F. Jim Hickin stated that he is starting to hear noise complaints about the airport and asked that the members spread the word that we need to be “better neighbors” and fly in the right patterns. Richard Wilson said he lives on Park Avenue, and he hasn’t heard anything from his neighbors about the noise.
- G. Jeff Reed asked about the dip at the end of Runway 4 and Jim Hickin replied that it would be fixed under the second phase of the runway project. Jeff inquired as to whether anyone has looked at the utilities in the area. Mike Izzo offered to look if someone would show him where the dip is.
- H. Larry Kelley suggested that the Pilot’s group send their email information to Jim Hickin so that they may be included in the notices and updates on airport conditions in advance. Jeff Reed agreed to share that information with the Pilot’s group at their next meeting.
- I. Sam Wilson asked for the meetings to be moved to 7 p.m. and after much discussion it was decided to keep the next meeting at 6 p.m. but to add to the agenda the item “Meeting Schedule” for further discussion.

## **10. Airport Policies – Minimum Standards**

Jim opened the discussion by stating that there were only a few sections, other than insurance, remaining to be discussed and he expressed confidence that it could be wrapped up during this meeting to stay on schedule. Todd Lawson also expressed that he wanted to keep things moving.

Discussion began with:

Section 5- Aircraft Rental Operator (SASO): Julie Wheatley provided wording that was acceptable to the committee and will give to Jim for revision.

Section 7- Aircraft Sales Operator: It was decided to just leave the definition at this time and to address it as the situation arises. The insurance requirement may be the only minimum standard for this section.

Section 8- Aircraft Storage Operator: It was decided to just leave the definition at this time. The insurance requirement may be the only minimum standard for this section.

Section 9- Air Charter/Air Taxi: Jim Hickin distributed a sample of Yellowstone Regional Airport's Minimum Standards pertaining to this section. Rick Garner read Easton's Minimum Standards for Air Carrier/Commercial Operations. The committee did not want to establish wording for this section without additional time to review. Jim Hickin wanted to keep committee moving on this document and asked what the committee needs to keep the document moving. The committee did not want to decide on wording on this issue and it was tabled at this time. Jim was asked to email the committee the Yellowstone and Easton Airport Minimum Standards. Mike Izzo suggested that Jim use Easton and Yellowstone airports as a guide to create alternate wording for this section for our airport and to provide it to the committee via email prior to the next meeting. This issue was tabled until the next meeting. Jim will also do this for Section 10-Specialized Commercial Aeronautical Operators.

Steve Cannon, a member of the public, asked the committee how they are promoting the airport in the midst of all this. Jeff Reed replied that we do talk about the airport and discuss the economic promotion of the airport. Jeff encouraged public participation and comments as they are helpful to the committee.

## **11. Next Meeting Date**

Due to some of the members not able to attend the regular meeting date in April, it was decided to cancel April's meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Georgetown, Delaware.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rick Garner, Seconded by Bob Young. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician  
Sussex County Airport