

DELAWARE COASTAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2026

Opening:

1. Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Delaware Coastal Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. on March 25, 2026, at 21911 Rudder Lane, Georgetown, Delaware by Airport Manager, Bob Bryant.

Advisory Committee Members Present:	Mark Parker, Asst. County Eng.	Dustin Berlinger
Rick Garner	Ray Hopkins	Jeff Reed
Ezra Rickards	Mark Ryan	Scott Thomas
Andrew Harton, Econ. Dev. Director		

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

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Todd Lawson, Matt Lloyd, Larry Kelley

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Election of Officers:

Nominations were taken for the position of Chairman. Ezra Rickards nominated Rick Garner and seconded by Dustin Berlinger. Nominations were closed. Rick Garner was elected Chairman by acclamation. At this time, the Chairman opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Rick Garner nominated Ezra Rickards, seconded by Dustin Berlinger. Nominations were closed. Ezra Rickards was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

4. Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Scott Thomas seconded by Andrew Harton, to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025, meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

5. Wildlife Management Update:

Bob informed the committee of the wildlife being spotted at the airport. He said there was quite a bit of deer activity seen on the camera he installed and they have been eradicated. There has not been any camera activity since January. There has been a lot of waterfowl activity and precautions are being taken. Dustin mentioned the considerable number of seagulls on the runway.

6. Airport Update:

Bob Bryant provided airport updates as follows:

- (a) Taxiway Bravo next phase should begin around June 1st and Allan Myers was awarded the contract. It should take about 150 calendar days to complete, which would be 120 for the work and the balance for final markings after the asphalt has cured. There will be some safety area issues due to the final markings on the taxiway at the intersection of Runway 4-22. Runway 4-22 will be closed for 21 days, and a NOTAM will be issued. The contractor will provide a schedule within the next two weeks, and Bob will share that with our tenants. There will be a 5-day closure of Runway 4-22 to tie the taxiway in with pavement.

On the next phase of Bravo, FAA is interested in funding the 95% to design, bid and construct the last two phases and Sussex County can match this for their portion. Bob is working with Delta on logistics. There will also be a wind cone added in the design of the next design phase.

The County submitted a \$43 million grant application to the FAA for the runway extension. Taxiway Alpha will remain downgraded from a Taxiway to a Taxi Lane. Taxiway Alpha will be renovated at some point to 25' wide with a loadbearing weight of 90,000 pounds. There are plans to preserve the existing pavement on the Runway and Taxiway.

- (b) Mark Parker gave an update on the natural gas project. He said they finished the initiative extension from the Business Park down the Runway to Rudder Lane and Aviation Avenue in early January. There were 12 buildings added in with meter points. They will be working on the final restoration and grading of the groundwork in early April. At a later date there will be the opportunity for other tenants with interest to be added in and we will get an email out within the next 30 days to tenants to see how many are interested. Mark will coordinate with Chesapeake Utilities as to what the process is to get other tenants added on.
- (c) Bob had an initial meeting with Bob Ricker, Training Officer, of the Georgetown Fire Company (GFC) along with Rick Garner and Joe Reed regarding training for GFC volunteers when entering the runway and taxiway areas. Mr. Ricker is very eager to establish Standard Operating Procedures for duties of the GFC and to create a training program for the firefighters. Mr. Ricker stated he has about 20 members who have expressed interest. There will be a follow-up meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00pm for those interested in attending and it will be at Arena's Conference Room in the terminal building. GFC plans to bring a van for Bob to give them a tour of the facility. They are interested in the layout of DCA and the runways and taxiways, entrances/access to the airport, communication with aircraft in emergency situations and Fire Department resources at DCA. They are interested in types of aircraft, number of takeoffs and landings. They will schedule another meeting and are looking for hands-on training to look around and Dustin stated he has plenty for them to look at. There is interest in in-air and on-ground incidents and what they may be faced with.

Documents will be drafted on comprehensive standard operating procedures to train the staff. Communication is the most critical component and Bob and the FBO know what to do but GFC needs to know after hours. The fire chief wants to understand the communication aspect. GFC needs to have the radios and know the frequency the communications will be on and understand what they are hearing. The policies and procedures need to be in a format that is easy to understand.

Bob invited the Advisory Members to show up. Some are interested in attending the meeting and asked for an email to be sent as a reminder of the meeting.

7. Discussions of Role of Airport Advisory Committee:

Bob left this on the agenda and said to date he has not received any emails regarding this subject.

8. Public Comments:

Dustin asked about the GPS at DCA. Bob stated the FAA is trying to figure out what is happening and Dover has taken the lead on this complaint. It has been an on and off thing across Delmarva and very unreliable. Bob said that Delaware Airpark has reported issues with the GPS also. It started January 31, 2026.

9. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 6 p.m. at 21911 Rudder Lane (EOC), Georgetown, DE.

A motion to adjourn was made by Andrew Harton, seconded by Ezra Rickards. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Patty Bodenweiser - Delaware Coastal Airport