

Minutes of the
SPRINGFIELD AIRPORT COMMISSION
June 29, 2023
Hartness State Airport Terminal Building - 5 p.m.

PRESENT: Paul Bladyka, Alasdair Crawford, Bruce Johnson, Peter MacGillivray, Charles Schumacher, Don Shattuck; Bob Flint, SRDC; Chris Beitzel, AOT; Shayne Wilcox, retired.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Johnson at 5:05 p.m. and on a motion by Don and Alasdair the minutes were approved as presented.

Chris Beitzel presented the AOT report and started with the security gates. The first gate on the east side will not be repaired at this time. The maintenance gate will be the only keypad gate. The sliding gate may become the main gate in the future and would possibly have cameras later. Questions still remain regarding a pass card vs. key pad. Would there be an override for a card reader?

Other questions regarding terminal building security arose. The back door has no deadbolt. The terminal building must be open 24/7. Unless there is a business (paying rent) there i.e. Springfield Aviation – then it can be secure. Cluster!! What is the answer???

Chris stated that there are currently no runway conflicts with activities – Aerobatics, ACE camp, CAP glider camps

The final report was that there is progress on leased land for hangar development. On line there are 9 pages on what has to be done. The windsock is new, the flags in front are new, the beaver dam is back, Shayne is retired, and Mike has been hired and is permanent classified. Did Otis Munroe move to VTrans?

Old Business: Still working on a joint meeting with the town managers of Springfield and Weathersfield. To be followed up.

Fuel prices were discussed and it was clear that Claremont is a municipal airport and has a unique price. Jet A is Sprague out of Portland. Don will check with Phillips and Titan. VT has the 2nd highest fuel tax in the U.S. AV gas is 7.31 in Bennington. 7.00 in Montpelier. Keene is 6.60 self, and 7.60 full service. Granite is 7.80 and Rutland??

The last part of the meeting was a “brainstorming” session on how to promote the airport. Ideas put forth were: Chas – a restaurant at the airport. Possible skydiving demo with groups from Orange, MA. An FAA Wings program with a fly-in and/or a fly-in breakfast with the Rotary cooking for a food cart.

Alasdair suggested a glider contest and possibly a “251” (towns in VT) poker run for aircraft to various airports.

Bruce suggested a fly-in with transportation of the pilots and passengers to local restaurants. Possibly an EAA fly-in with various aircraft types – C-195. Mooneys, Beechcraft, Piper, Cessna or homebuilts, etc.

Keep thinking about all sorts of promotions for the benefit off the airport and the local area.

Next meeting (skip July) would be August 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on a motion by Paul and Peter.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter MacGillivray, Vice-Chair