

SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2013

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. on September 25, 2013, 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

Garrett Dernoga Larry Kelley Jeff Reed Mark Ryan Richard Wilson

Jim Hickin, Sussex County Airport (Non-member)

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Gus Croll Rick Garner

1. Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mike Izzo, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

2. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Richard Wilson, seconded by Mike Izzo, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2013 meeting. 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 discussed FAA's response to VOR Approach issue the committee previously brought up. The FAA has not found any problems with the flight check or VOR transmitter for the approach.

4. Wings and Wheels Update

Larry Kelley updated the committee regarding the Wings & Wheels event to be held on Saturday, October 5th. If weather cooperates it is expected to have record attendance. It was noted that there will be no parking at the airport this year. Parking, including

handicapped parking will be available at the Sussex Academy of Arts School, and Sterling Square shopping center with shuttle service available.

It was noted that the airport is still under normal operations during the event. Jim also reminded the group that this is a Georgetown Chamber event.

5. Wildlife Management Update

Jim commented on the following issues:

Vultures: The increased amount of rain this year seems to be the source of the increased vulture problem at the airport.

Geese: There does not appear to be as many present at this time.

Deer: There does not appear to be as many present at this time.

6. Airport Update

Jim Hickin discussed the following updates:

A. Concrete Ramp- The area by Sussex Aero Maintenance and the Aviation Ave T-Hangars were completed on schedule and under budget. The other side will be scheduled for Spring 2014 and, due to the area of the project, access will be discussed with the affected tenants.

B. Jim provided an update on the Runway Extension project. The 500 ft. work was completed and the 5500 ft. runway opened this past Monday. Jim discussed with the committee what each package included and the work to be performed. He also explained the thresholds and instrument approaches relating to the runway. Mike Izzo commented that due to the delay in receiving FAA grant the work will be scheduled for Spring 2014 instead of this fall.

C. The County has selected a new airport consultant, which is Delta Airport Consultants.

7. Economic Development Update

Julie asked when the Airport Master Plan was due to be updated. Jim Hickin replied not for a while. Julie stated that Georgetown is growing and it would be a good time to market the airport.

8. Delaware Gasoline Tax Discussion

Garrett Dernoga stated that he has nothing new to report. He noted that Rep. Ruth Briggs King may introduce something at the next legislative session, however he feels she may need more support upon introduction from other legislators. The committee asked Garrett to come up with a list of bullet points showing the reason to do away with this tax that could be easily distributed as information.

9. Airport Business Plan Update

Jim Hickin said the draft business plan would be available by the end of the week for internal staff review. Todd Lawson commented that he believes the Airport Business Plan is very thorough and will be used as a launching point for the Airport and Industrial Park for branding and marketing.

10. Public Comments

Gerald Wingate asked if there would be handicapped parking at the Wings & Wheels event. Jim noted that handicapped parking would be available at the two nearby parking locations with shuttles available, as previously described, but not on the airport.

11. Next Meeting Date

After some discussion on the next meeting date, a Motion was made by Garrett Dernoga, and Seconded by Larry Kelley to have the next meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Georgetown, Delaware.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sam Wilson, Seconded by Richard Wilson. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician
Sussex County Airport