

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2016

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the Hartness Airport, 15 Airport Road, North Springfield, VT at 6pm.

Attendance – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice-Chair); Charles Golden, Andover; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; John Saydek, Cavendish; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; and Jeff Taft-Dick, At Large Member.

Springfield Airport Commission members present: Kathleen R Fellows, Walter Striedieck, Bruce H Johnson

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Guy Rouelle, VTrans; Larry Perry, Hartness Airport Manager, Bill Kearns, Springfield Zoning; Tom Yennerell, Springfield Town Manager; Heath Marsden and Tanya Plante, Jacobs.

Meeting Opened: The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Vermont Aviation and Hartness Airport, including tour

Guy Rouelle, VTrans Aeronautics Administrator, gave an overview of some general Vermont aviation information:

- Many airports in a state of disrepair in 2011.
- Eight of the state airports, including Hartness, are now in the black.
- The 2001 and 2012 Economic Impact Statements show the value added by airports to their local areas.
- The State will be starting a Statewide System and Policy Plan soon.

Guy Rouelle also gave an overview of what has been happening at Hartness Airport since 2011:

- Airport is owned by the State of Vermont, with Larry Perry and Springfield Aviation doing day-to-day work.
- In 2013 State acquired the Graves property which is a great asset for expanding the airport.
- Since 2014 the airport has had a master plan and airport layout plan, which is now fully approved. State permits will still be needed, but a lot of the planning is now done. New plans include additional hanger space, moving electrical station, terminal expansion, new parallel taxiway, safety area expansion, etc. The State hopes to start design and permitting in FY 2018. Attracting a private investor will be key to financing some of the improvements, particularly those which cannot get federal funding.
- Key focus areas for improvements have been:
 - Tree removal and getting avigation easements from local properties, per federal requirements.
 - Getting the airport safety areas up to standards, including the 300ft at the end of the runway.
 - Repaving the apron is becoming a need as the pavement quality deteriorates below a PCI of 55.
 - Adding an additional parallel taxiway since the airport currently can only have one plane of the runway at a time
 - Increasing hanger space
 - An archeological study has cleared some land so there are now some new hangers.
 - The oldest hanger (Lindberg) has recently been refurbished.
 - More hangers are planned in the expansion.
- Moving forward, the State would like to start conversations about further improving integration of airport into local and regional planning efforts, including expansion of water and sewer lines, compatible land use zoning
- Several local businesses use the airport.
- The airport hosts many events – second in Vermont only to Franklin State Airport!
- Kathleen Fellows is the commander of the Civil Air Patrol which is based at the airport.

Local Perspective on Aviation

The TAC, Larry Perry (Airport Manager) and members of the Airport Commission discussed some local aspects of Hartness Airport, including:

- Glider operations at the airport as a major asset. Over 1,000 glider launches this year so far
- ACE (Aviation Career Education) Camp run by Walter Striedieck is important to get the youth involved in aviation and potential become qualified individuals who pursue good careers in aviation

Acceptance of minutes

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of July 27, 2016. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. Approved unanimously.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. Charlestown-Springfield Bridge over Connecticut River – One way traffic is now in operation. Have not yet managed to find out from NHDOT when the 5 days of full closure is scheduled.
 - b. Class 1 Town Highway repaving projects are completed in all towns except Springfield where a few “punch list” items are still being completed
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
 - a. Transportation Alternatives grants are out <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>
- c) *Meetings*
 - a. 10/20 at 4pm in Chester – Michelle Boomhower (VTrans Director of Planning, Policy and Intermodal Development) will be visiting the SWCRPC Board – TAC is invited to attend.
 - b. 10/20 at 7pm at Hartness Airport – 502 Hearing for Avigation Easements
 - c. 10/26 – 9am – 3pm – VT Highway Safety Alliance Annual Meeting at Mt Snow
- d) *Permit Applications*
 - a. No news
- e) *Way to Go Commuter Challenge* – 9/26 – 10/7 – <http://waytogovt.org>

Other Business

None

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 10/26 at 6pm in Ascutney

Agenda item requests – VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan Outreach, Rail meeting (including maintenance practices and train track upgrades)

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Seconded by Charles Golden. Approved unanimously.