

EASTERN SLOPE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 2021

5:00 pm via Zoom

At 5:15 pm, the quarterly meeting of the ESAA Board of Directors was called to order with the following present: Chairman Don Thibodeau, Vice Chair Carl Thibodeau, Gene Bergoffen, Dave Sorensen (6:23 pm), Steven Steiner, Ron Briggs, Eric Meltzer, Conway Town Manager Thomas Holmes, Airport Manager Dave Cullinan, and Recording Secretary Krista Day.

- Approval of Quarterly Minutes of January 14th, 2021

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Meltzer, to adopt the minutes from minutes from the January 14, 2021 quarterly meeting as written. The motion carried with Steven Steiner abstaining.

- Executive Committee

Chairman Thibodeau explained that McFarland Johnson has completed a lot of work. They are planning to have a conference with MaryBeth as McFarland Johnson believed they have already mitigated sufficiently.

It was stated that the Aviation Academy lease had been signed.

There was discussion regarding the need to quantify and bill the academy for the increased electricity that was being used.

Mr. Cullinan will complete this with Bob.

Dave Sorensen joined the meeting at 5:23 pm.

Mr. Briggs stated that matching funds are needed in order to obtain the grants for Lyman Road, however, nothing is available for this year. They are looking to Fryeburg to help supply these funds moving forward.

Mr. Thibodeau urged them to continue working on the grant as they have three years to raise the matching funds and they do not need to delay applying for the grant.

In terms of the crack sealing problems, they are waiting to see where the stimulus money goes so there is nothing definitive to report at this time.

Regarding the prescribed burn, they are planning to complete it this fall. Other than potential use of fuel, it does not look like there will be an additional cost to the airport.

- Quarterly Operations Update

Airport Manager Dave Cullinan gave the quarterly operations update.

He explained that fuel sales are generally up. He attributes that to a pretty mild winter with better runway conditions.

In terms of empty hangars, there are only three available which are adjacent to the construction site.

Aviation activity continues to be strong.

Mr. Cullinan noted that he is looking into the process of having the airport become a contract fuel supplier which will open them up for more potential fuel sales to military aircrafts going forward.

Chairman Thibodeau requested that Mr. Cullinan bring the pros and cons to the Executive Board.

Mr. Cullinan explained that he was still searching around for the best prices for hangar doors to create more closed hangar space.

The jet fuel pump filter has been upgraded the sixth addition and just passed the yearly annual inspection.

Mr. Cullinan noted that he has been in touch with people in Rockland about the potential for purchasing an above ground fuel tank.

In terms of the Capital Improvement Plan, he would like that the snow removal equipment be added because in 2024 they will have met their obligation to the FAA as the equipment was purchased in 2004.

Mr. Cullinan noted that Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission is looking for possible recreational opportunities on the airport property. He noted that he had shown them the picnic area and a potential snowmobile trail that could be used as a bike trail.

Mr. Cullinan stated that there had been a few Angel Flights in the last quarter.

Chairman Thibodeau suggested that Mr. Cullinan work with Mr. Meltzer regarding a press release for when the hangar project is more underway.

Chairman Thibodeau explained that he does not think people understand how important Angel Flights are and the importance the airport plays in them. He noted that it would be helpful to find a way to get that information out to the public.

Mr. Meltzer noted that while he has included the topic of Angel Flights in the Fryeburg Newsletter, he will write some letters for the Conway Daily Sun.

Mr. Thibodeau suggested that they reach out to Dr. Frank Hubble as his father was very active in the airport. He noted that he would be a good person to interview regarding the importance of Angel Flights.

- Financial Update

Mr. Bergoffen gave the quarterly financial update. He explained that while he did not have the last month's number yet, the major activity is related to the hangar project.

They have started the process for the audit for 2020.

He noted that yesterday they had applied for a company credit card for Mr. Cullinan to use which will allow them to remove the tedious invoice process they have been using.

- Report on Transient Hangar

Mr. Bergoffen explained that the plans for the transient hangar have not been approved by McFarland Johnson yet, however, they say they are still on schedule.

- Solar Project

Mr. Bergoffen explained that they had a call with McFarland Johnson and Nick regarding the site layout.

It was noted that Central Maine Power is behind on the appraisal process.

- Marketing Committee

Mr. Meltzer stated that the website is up and running and he was in conversation with Rachel regarding getting more pictures up.

- STEM Aviation Committee

Mr. Meltzer explained that the plan is to open up the programs to those outside of the school systems as of July 1, 2021 in order to allow other to utilize the resources they have.

It was also noted that they plan to hold limited summer camps due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions.

- Affirmation of Actions Taken by Executive Committee at Quarterly Meeting

Mr. Sorensen moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to affirm the actions taken by the Executive Committee since the last quarterly meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- Other Business

Chairman Thibodeau explained that in the current times, they need to be reaching out to their Congressional Representatives in both Maine and New Hampshire as there is the potential for assistance for the airport through the current bills and the upcoming infrastructure bill.

After much discussion, the consensus was that they need more information from Mr. O'Brien on specifics including who they should be contacting and what they should be requesting.

It was stated that they would request that Mr. O'Brien attend the next Executive Board meeting.

- Questions & Comments

Steven Steiner stated that he hoped the Board would think big when planning for the future. He stated that it would be beneficial to create an airport that residents of the area could utilize to come and go.

ADJOURN

At 6:31 pm the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

The next ESAA Quarterly meeting will be on July 8, 2021. The Executive Committee meets the third Thursday of every month. Next meeting is May 20, 2021 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day

Recording Secretary