

Airport Advisory Committee
September 12, 2018
Airport Terminal Lobby
65 Airport Road
Meeting Minutes

Committee in attendance: Joe Alosa, Councilor Candace Bouchard, Councilor Gail Matson, Charles Gerhan, Ernie Loomis,

Staff/Airport Manager in attendance: Carlos P. Baía, Martha Drukker, Jay Burgess, Chip Chesley, David Rolla (Concord Aviation Services)

Consultant: John Gorham (Jacobs Engineering)

Guest: Mayor Pro Tem St. Hilaire (ribbon cutting portion of program); Councilor Byron Champlin (ribbon cutting portion of program); Bob Meyer (Argen Tech Solutions); LTC Justin Stevig (U.S. Army National Guard) Capt. Matt Henry (U.S. Army National Guard) Ed Sargent (Master Planner—State of NH Adjutant General’s Office)

Meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m.

1. Ribbon Cutting—Airport Terminal Renovations

Deputy City Manager Baía introduced the committee members and guests in the audience. He explained the history and evolution of the project and thanked all those that helped with the project particularly the Airport Advisory Committee, City Council, City Manager, Public Properties, the Airport Manager and the Alosa family who donated company labor and materials for the project. Special thanks also went to Suzi Pegg, Economic Development Director, and Stefanie Breton, Public Information Officer, for their ideas and assistance in decorating the lobby with Concord images and memorabilia and for organizing today’s ceremony.

2. Approval of the January 16, 2018 meeting minutes

Motion to approve made by Councilor Bouchard, seconded by Mr. Loomis. Motion passes.

3. Argen Tech Solutions—Freedom Award and Airspace Winner

Mr. Meyer stated that he is one of the owners of Argen Tech Solutions. The company was established in 2009 and has offices in South Africa and Colombia and now its corporate headquarters in Hangar 4 of the Concord airport. They have FAA approval to fly in Concord, Pease, Nashua, and Manchester airports’ airspace.

In Concord, ArgenTech has a maintenance facility as well as a training center for operators. Most of ArgenTech's work is with the US Department of Defense. The company has 65 employees. 85% of ArgenTech employees are veterans or reservists/guardsmen.

ArgenTech plans to hold an open house in Concord in late October. Mr. Meyer will extend an invitation to the Airport Advisory Committee.

4. New Funding Opportunity

John Gorham, with Jacobs consulting, explained that the FAA has made available \$1 billion in supplemental funding into the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). This funding would be awarded to eligible projects for 2019 and 2020 distribution. It would fund projects on a 100% basis versus the current 90% allocation.

Mr. Gorham explained that the program could not fund "revenue generating facilities" such as hangars or fuel farms and we could not use it for our terminal building. However, there are several Concord CIP projects that could be eligible which include the 1) terminal area planning study; 2) the purchase of snow removal equipment; 3) aprons; 4) rehabilitation of runway 17-35 (which would likely include the lengthening of the runway to accommodate an enhanced safety zone); 5) the addition of a bay in the SRE building; 6) rehabilitation of the itinerant apron; and 6) the rehabilitation of the based aircraft apron.

Mr. Gorham stated that a written request with project justification would need to be sent to the FAA by October 31st, 2018 if the City wishes to pursue this funding. If FAA responds that one or more of our projects might be worthy of funding consideration, City would then need to decide if it wished to invest in full engineering to get project bid ready for grant application in April 2019 or 2020. The risk at that point would be the City's investment in the project engineering without a guarantee of grant receipt.

Mr. Baía concluded that staff would like the Airport Advisory Committee's recommendation as to whether the Council should consider authorizing the City to send a letter requesting consideration by October 31st.

Mr. Gerhan moved that the committee recommend to Council that the City be authorized to submit letter of interest to FAA by October 31st. Councilor Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passes.

5. Update on CIP

Martha Drukker noted that the City was not successful in its first attempt to secure FAA grant funding for the taxiway rehabilitation. Based on input from NHDOT, the City subsequently combined phases 1 and 2 of this project into one new grant application. The City just received notice that we were awarded that grant.

Governor and Executive Council approval are anticipated for October. If we can coordinate contractor and a window of time this fall and winter (in compliance with the numerous environmental restrictions), the project would start in 2018. If not, we would start in 2019.

Ms. Drukker also noted that the City approved a CIP for a terminal area planning study pending an FAA grant. Once approved, the Airport Advisory Committee will be invited to participate in the study.

6. Rotors & Motors Day Update

Ms. Drukker explained that the event was a great success. It included antique vehicles, static displays, and Fremont Flyers doing demos of robotic planes. There were somewhere between 400-500 participants with the peak period being 10 am to 1pm.

Mr. Rolla noted that this year Concord received very little help from the Granite State Airport Managers Association (GSAMA) with the exception of Ms. Drukker. However, he noted that the event was much easier to coordinate and carry out without the road race. He felt that the absence of the race helped focus the attendees more on the airport and aviation in general. He suggested that the airport may even wish to consider an "airshow" with the UAS and robotic airplanes in the future. He thought having the antique cars was a nice attraction.

For the future, he feels more help is needed with marketing.

7. Old Business

Deputy City Manager Baía explained that the National Guard/Adjutant General's Office had reconnected with the City to discuss the potential acquisition of the Airport's property located at the corner of Airport Road and Regional Drive. Mr. Baía reminded the Committee that when the City and the Adjutant General last broached this subject, the Adjutant General had completed some due diligence including an appraisal but three items complicated a potential sale:

- 1) The property was found to have not yet been subdivided formally from the airfield despite being split by Regional Drive;
- 2) The FAA has expressed opposition to a sale but might be open to a lease or another arrangement that restricts the future owners of the property from violating grant assurances such as heights, etc.;
- 3) The Civil Airport patrol and what to do with that organization.

Mr. Baía noted that from the Guard's recent comments they could house the Civil Air Patrol but would also be amenable to the City keeping the CAP on its property. Mr. Baía noted that it would benefit the Airport financially to keep the CAP as they could continue to pay rent to the Airport.

Councilor Bouchard expressed continued reservation that the CAP not be disrupted. She also asked if the plan was still to extend the wrought iron fence currently on the Military reservation around this property upon acquisition. Lieutenant Colonel Justin Strevig stated that it was still the plan.

Mr. Loomis moved to recommend to the City Council that the City continue to negotiate with the Adjutant General's office on a deal that would allow the State to acquire that property leaving the CAP on City land. Councilor Matson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

8. New Business

LTC Strevig explained that the Adjutant General has plans to build a 14,000 s.f. readiness center within the footprint of the existing Guard lease area within the airfield. This would allow the Guard to move the personnel and offices from the reservation across the street to the hangar site so they could be closer to their aircraft.

Mr. Gerhan asked if this readiness center would have living quarters. LTC Strevig stated that only cots that would be coincidental to the office use.

Ms. Drukker asked if the Adjutant General's office was going to work with NH Fish & Game on any conservation-related issues with the site development. LTC Strevig acknowledged that it would although it was thought that this may not be an issue since the plan was to build the readiness center within the Guard's existing lease footprint.

Mr. Baía explained that the readiness center would follow the same pattern as the development of the original hangar and go through the Planning Board process.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos P. Baía