

**BEVERLY AIRPORT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 8, 2024**

LOCATION: 50 L.P. Henderson Rd., Beverly Airport East Side

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chair Kyle Retallack, Jason Reulet, Josh Doxsee, Khris Kendrick, Jessie Zuberek, Bill Kossowan and Robin Gillette

OTHERS PRESENT: Airport Manager Gabe Hanafin and Craig Schuster of ASG Group

ABSENT: Aaron Henry

PUBLIC: Mark Zuberek, Steve Zuberek, Tony Bettencourt and Paul Beaulieu

RECORDER: Christine Martin Barraford

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Retallack called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM, which is being audio and video recorded as a hybrid meeting. Roll call was taken and members present were: Mr. Kossowan, Mr. Reulet, Chair Retallack, Mr. Doxsee, Ms. Zuberek, Ms. Robin Gillette and Mr. Kendrick.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Retallack led those in attendance in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Regular Open Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2024

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Kendrick and seconded by Ms. Zuberek, it was voted to approve the above minutes as amended. Roll call vote: Mr. Kossowan-Y, Mr. Kendrick-Y, Chair Retallack-Y, Mr. Reulet-Y, Mr. Doxsee-Y, Ms. Gillette and Ms. Zuberek-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

General Public Comments

Senator Lovely appeared before the Commission via Zoom. She stated that, despite the airport's enhanced website to address noise complaints, she continues to get complaints from Danvers and Beverly constituents ranging from toxic fumes, increased traffic, early morning touch-and-go's and in opposition to the building of an additional hangar. She asked that these complaints be addressed in order for people to enjoy their neighborhoods.

Chloe Mitchell, legislative aide to Representative Sally Kearns, also appeared before the Commission via Zoom and echoed the statements made by Senator Lovely. Her office receives complaints everyday, sometimes multiple times a day.

Chair Retallack asked that all complainants be referred to the airport website to register their complaints. The airport is working diligently to address issues and acknowledges and answers every complaint.

Mark Zuberek of Danvers appeared before the Board and submitted a written statement in opposition to noise issues and the building of an additional hangar. This statement is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Steve Zuberek of Tulane Road appeared before the Commission. He submitted a report completed by Wiley Associates in 2001 and presented to the noise abatement office of San Francisco airport. It described the effects of low frequency aircraft backblast on the human body. Compared to the seismic effect of an earthquake, this low frequency generated by 20-30 thousand jet horsepower is not decreased by barriers and is “felt” rather than “heard” lasting from one-two minutes. He stated his opposition to an additional hangar housing eight jets that would “unleash the effect eight times more.” At Chair Retallack’s request, he will forward a digital link to the report to all Commissioners.

Mr. Tony Bettencourt appeared before the Commission. He noted the latest news that a suspicious bag of white powder had been found on one of the airplanes at the Beverly Flight Center. Mr. Beaulieu reported that it had been turned over to police and is under investigation.

Mr. Bettencourt also voiced his opposition to the building of an additional hangar. He noted that the Town of Bedford is also in opposition to the building of a hangar in its town.

Tenant Comment

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

Airport Solutions Group – Craig Schuster

Mr. Schuster reviewed the Airport Solutions Group including the following highlights:

EA / EENF for 5-Yr AMPU Projects [Incl. Reconstruct RW 16-34 & TW 'E' & Access Road] /Single EIR

Status:

- ASG performed drone flight on June 18th. The drone flight was the area for the future proposed Taxiway E from east ramp to end of Runway 16.
- ASG is starting to develop conceptual design of Taxiway E.
- ASG is coordinating with their environmental subconsultant GZA and the Airport for GZA to perform a site visit to identify wetlands within proposed project area.

Next Steps:

- Expect FAA/MassDOT grant offer July 2024 possibly August

Aeronautical Study Runway 16-34 and 9-27 (FY2023)

Status:

- ASG’s airspace subconsultant Bluesky has run into issue with their submitted data to the FAA’s Airport Geographic Information System (AGIS) and National Geodetic Survey (NGS). Bluesky is working on a resolution and should be resolved soon.

Next Steps:

- Analyze airspace - ongoing.
- Develop Report – ongoing.
- Submit obstruction analysis and report to the FAA, MassDOT Aeronautics, and Beverly Airport for Review and Comment – TBD.
- Hold meeting to discuss comments.
- Address comments and resubmit.
- Prepare final report.

Install Perimeter Fence (FY2024)(ASMP Project)

Status:

- Project is still ongoing.
- An additional three calendar days was approved to Premier Fence (per their request) which changed their contract completion date from June 26, 2024 to June 29, 2024, and their contract calendar days from 30 to 33.

- ASG attended site inspection meeting with MassDOT Aeronautics, Airport, Danvers and Beverly Conservation Agents, on Wednesday, July 3, 2024.
- Since Premier Fence did not complete the project on June 29, 2024 they will be charge liquidated damages in accordance with the contract documents.

Next Steps:

- Complete bid process – COMPLETED.
- Open bids on April 17th, analyze bids and prepare letter of recommendation – COMPLETED.
- Prepare contractor and ASG contracts for signature – COMPLETED.
- Hold pre-construction Meeting – COMPLETED
- Issue Notice-to-proceed – COMPLETED.
- Start Construction – started on May 28, 2024.
- Finish Construction – TBD.

Miscellaneous

- AG will reach out to the airport to set up pre-CIP meeting.

C. AIRPORT MANAGER’S REPORT – Gabriel Hanafin

Operations and Fee Report

Mr. Hanafin reviewed the financial and operations report for the previous month and year-to-date as of June as detailed on the attached spreadsheet. Fuel flow fees and landing fees decreased by 20% and 15% respectively. He also reviewed the budget to actual numbers and present tracking of budget expenses.

FY2024 budget summary and FY2025 proposed budget

Mr. Hanafin reviewed the attached FY24 budget, which ended in a strong budgetary position as well as the FY25 proposed budget.

Discussion ensued on various aspects of the budget, including the City’s contribution from the enterprise fund.

Report on Noise Complaints received in the last month (June 10- July 8)

Mr. Hanafin reviewed his written report attached hereto on the noise complaints received from June 10 to July 8. Discussion ensued on the nature, content and pattern of the various complaints from Danvers and Beverly residents as well as the type of aircraft. Mr. Hanafin noted that complaints about flight school aircraft have been steadily decreasing. Ms. Gillette noted that, as a Beverly resident who has experienced noise issues, noise complaints may be under-represented because they are not always reported. Chair Retallack stated that he continues to encourage all residents to report noise issues in collaboration with Senator Lovely and Representative Kearns offices and funneled back to the airport. Additionally he and Mr. Hanafin will continue their personal canvassing of neighborhoods. Mr. Hanafin continues to acknowledge receipt of all complaints with a phone call or response email.

Complaints, concerns and suggestions update

Chair Retallack and Mr. Hanafin are compiling a list of concerns other than noise that need addressing, i.e. fuel and its type, airport expansion, the master plan and future developments. They are also working on the FAQ section of the website and instructions for visitors to log all airport-related complaints in the appropriate section.

Update on Building 45

Mr. Hanafin reported that there continues to be an interest in Building 45 both from within and outside the airport.

Other

This Thursday the MA Secretary of Transportation will be visiting the airport and hosting a private meeting of various stakeholders in the conference room. Mr. Hanafin will have an opportunity to show her progress on the state-funded fence and discuss other opportunities for grant funding.

D. REPORTS of SUB-COMMITTEES

Airport Innovation Subcommittee Update

Mr. Kendrick reported that he met with Flight Level Aviation three weeks ago and is awaiting March data. He is continuing to put together proposals for flight pattern billing systems.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kossowan asked that the process be advanced and a decision be made by the next meeting. Although three months of data would be ideal, one month of data would be sufficient to make a decision. Mr. Kendrick noted that more information is needed to be presented in a uniform way in order to adequately evaluate the different systems available. Mr. Hanafin stated that public procurement policy would need to be followed on values exceeding \$10K, i.e. the issuance of a formal RFQ and evaluation of services before a final decision is made.

Mr. Reulet reported on his efforts on pursuing the subcommittee's designated pillars of sustainability with regard to electric fast charging stations and changes needed within the infrastructure in collaboration with National Grid and Danvers Electric. Mr. Kossowan noted there was an advantage of bringing this cutting edge technology of the EV company in Burlington, Vermont to participate in the airport's airshow event in September.

Mr. Reulet and Mr. Hanafin met with contractors for charging stations on the east/west sides of the airport. These charging stations will accommodate both automobiles and aircraft. The logistics of placement as well as municipal supply of electricity need to be worked out with the involvement of the City Engineer. Mr. Reulet stated that the project will be advanced in phases.

Ms. Gillette she continues to compile information on noise complaints in order to make her presentation at the August meeting on trends and protocols, etc.

E. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman's Comments

Chair Retallack read from a list of complaints and issues received by the airport and stated how they had been addressed to date. The list is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes and covered the areas of a) fees b) fuel tax revenue c) real estate tax d) runway expansion/increased traffic e) new hangar and environmental impact and f) fuel tank/location.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Zuberek and Mr. Bettencourt providing feedback.

Miscellaneous Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bill Kossowan

Mr. Kossowan noted his twenty-six years of advocacy for the airport and his opinion that the current team of Commissioners is the best he has seen. He noted the importance of *all* Commissioners to be in attendance at all meetings. He summarized the time he regularly spends on airport matters at town hall and meetings with constituents. He stated that he receives "hundreds of complaints" from constituents and that there is a "disconnect" with the Commission. He is scheduled to have a meeting with the Danvers Board of Selectmen to discuss matters related to the airport. He stated that "he is team Danvers" and will represent his constituents. He emphasized the importance of face-to-face dialogue.

Commissioner Doxsee

Mr. Doxsee noted that the airport is bound by federal guidelines of the FAA and its role is to balance and promote aviation within the community. Many of the issues raised are within the purview of the federal government, and the Commission has not been given the authority to direct or curtail business.

Commissioner Gillette

Ms. Gillette noted that she has seen the situation dramatically change in the last five years. She asked what power the City and Commission have to negotiate with the FAA in favor of the two communities' opposition to further expansion. Mr. Hanafin stated that the FAA is not "acting on a whim" but instead is responding to the situation of increasing traffic at the airport and to ensure that the airport has the infrastructure to support traffic safety. Chair Retallack stated that there is not sufficient square footage for expansion.

Commissioner Zuberek

Ms. Zuberek stated that things have changed since the pandemic resulting in more residents retiring or working from home in the neighborhoods. The question is who/what can define other than FAA the size of the airport according to community feedback.

Chair Retallack stated that he and Mr. Hanafin are putting in long hours as well as Mr. Kossowan, but their hands are tied with what the airport is allowed to do under the purview of the FAA.

Mr. Kossowan noted that Danvers has 17.25 acres devoted to the business operation and consequently should have 40% of participation in the overall airport political body. The dissatisfaction can be traced back to sixty years, with flare-ups happening every five years. The FAA needs to be responsive to the needs of the community.

Mr. Kossowan noted the safety seminar will be held on July 25th on "what to do when the unthinkable happens."

F. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Kossowan and seconded by Ms. Gillette, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:56PM.

Supporting documents:

Commission minutes of meeting of June 10
Mr. Zuberek's written statement
ASG report
Airport manager's monthly financial reports
Report on noise complaints
Report on other airport-related complaints
Update on building 45
Chair's written response to various complaints