

Minutes of Airport Commission Meeting of May 19, 2021

Meeting Opened at 6:05pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm

Members Present

Carlos DaCunha
Russ Olson
Jeff Pelletier
Paula Popeo
Gary Correia

Members Absent

Airport Admin Sta

Scot Servis, Airport Manager
Joan Jones, Principal Clerk

Others Present

Eric Jaikes Mike Rocha
Steve Reiland Dave Dineen
Michael Josefek Leon Shabbot

This meeting is being held via telephone per Governor Baker’s State of Emergency letter dated May 20, 2020 “Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of Open Meeting Law”.

"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any accommodations are needed, please contact **Scot Servis at 508-991-6161**. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least **48 hours** prior to the scheduled meeting."

Commission chair read the Baker memo and went over the ground rules before starting this meeting

1. Call to order. Meeting was called to order at 6:05

a. Note: Gary Correia unable to attend due to work conflict. Actually Commissioner Correia did call in to attend the meeting

2. Roll call was taken by the chairman. All commissioners were present

3. The members of the Airport Commission have received minutes of the previous meeting held on April 24, 2021. Request acceptance of those minutes, as recorded. Motion to accept minutes made by Commissioner Popeo and 2nd by Commissioner Pelletier. Roll call vote and all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Reports:

a. Manager’s

i. Operations briefing – manager went over the operations and noted our 2 shortfalls are enplanements and parking but we should make our expectations for everything else

ii. Financial/Operations report in package – manager went over the financial report – we are holding our own for expenses right now but we are down in revenue as we have collection issues that we are working out with several tenants

iii. Rental Car RFP update – this was due last Friday and emailed about 40 car rental agencies. We did not hear back from Enterprise but Avis said they are in the process of moving buildings and missed the date so they asked for an extension, which was granted. New deadline is the first week of June

iv. Apron Phase 2 – this is in process but we are running into minor issues.

v. ASMP Grants (4) – we currently have 4, 2 of which are mow decks, one for a snow pusher and the last one is to update our swppp plan

vi. 2nd Round of Cares Act Money -we got \$23,000.00 for the airport and \$34,162.00 for tower use only. Manager is looking for bids to fix the heat and air conditioning issues in the tower

vii. Senate Bill S2305 – there are a lot of agencies weighing in on this and supposedly at this point it is just a conversation starter, FAA regulations would have to be reformed before this could pass at

state level as it will affect revenue projections and they are already issuing exemptions meeting certain criteria. Manager will keep commission updated but feels this is just for shock value

viii. Annual Budget Hearing- City Council May 24th – This will be a zoom meeting and manager will call in even though he is on vacation. We are not level funded which might cause a major problem and we are understaffed and need to fill 2 positions and co pays even though we do not sufficient revenue (we are about \$300,000.00 in shortfall projections but we do have CARES ACT MONEY available to close gap). Final cuts will be at a later date.

ix. Other items as necessary – the state and city is getting money for infrastructure, which may help fund some of our capital improvement projects and/or internal needs and wants. Manager suggested having a subcommittee look into this to meet our needs effectively. A business plan subcommittee will be scheduled for further discussion during the first week of June and manager will touch base with the mayor’s office

b. Asst Manager report

i. Covid-19 Testing Site - we are running testing here and there have been no impacts

ii. Airline & Marketing Updates – Southern Airways is starting flights on May 26 and Cape Air is starting up their flights on June 1. Both have a robust schedule and we are working on our social media ads to reach out to as much of the public as possible – so far over 60,000 people in one month for a cost of about \$300.00!

iii. Airport Grill Updates – they will be hosting their own “feast of the blessed sacrament” and we have addressed concerns about security, noise levels, safety, and clean up, etc. They are also having an entrance fee, (limited compacity) and security details

iv. Small Business Spotlight – each week we are highlighting a new business downtown to be advertised in Nantucket and have a cross promotional advertisement to aid in tourism.

v. Airport Road – this has been patched at no cost to the airport and what a great job! Special thanks go out to Jamie Ponte and his crew! Chair suggested sending a thank you note

vi. Other items as necessary – nothing else to discuss.

c. Chairman Report – we continue to work with our state delegation to help with shovel ready project funding and is moving forward.

d. Committee Reports

i. Business Plan committee – update – to be scheduled

ii. Finance Committee – update

1. Present Development Agreement to full commission. This has been distributed to commission and reviewed. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Pelletier and 2nd by Commissioner Popeo. Roll call vote taken and all in favor. Motion carried. Manager noted that Southeastern Fire does have a new proposal that will be heard later this evening.

e. Airport Solutions Group (written report included in package). Steve Reisland present to go over the ASG monthly report and answer questions if needed

5. City Solicitor – monthly status report – Atty. Jaikes reported that (1) Noreast Aviation has sent in payment of about \$9,000.00 but they are still substantially behind in rent but more so in fees. Default letter has been sent (2) The mayor’s office is looking into the possibility of using CARES ACT money to get rent for the covid testing site to help with our revenue (3) Atty. Jaikes would like to have a chat off line regarding the Airport Grill “feast plans” and approval of licensing process

6. Old Business –

i. Leon Shabbott update – Mr. Shabbot provided update – Conservation Commission has received plans and is moving forward. Hopefully more information to follow

- ii. Airport Mini Storage update – nothing to report as yet until appraisal is complete
- iii. Josefek hangar development - Mr. Josefek reported that he had met with the Finance Committee and sent documentation info to the FAA (regarding height issues) and has a draft lease. Should have more to report in the next few weeks.

7. New Business –

i. Southeastern Fire – sublet. Manager provided recap of what transpired 2 years ago and noted that Mr. Rocha would like to return property to the airport at this time. Mr. Rocha addressed the commission and stated that he does not want to sublet to Mr. Tavares as he is not a suitable tenant at this point and he has no faith in him, therefore he would like to return property. Motion made by Commissioner Pelletier and 2nd by Commissioner Popeo to refer to finance for further discussion. Roll call vote taken and all were in favor and motion carried. Atty. Jaikes will need to research this matter further as it might have to go to City Counsel and other procedures might be necessary as well

8. Communications

9. Tabled Business

10. Executive session

11. Adjournment – before adjourning Mike Josefek spoke about the bill in senate (S2305) that is not well thought out and will drive business out of Massachusetts and pilots need to fight this tooth and nail. Asst. manager noted that this would kill general aviation and praised Dave Dineen / MAMA for his help in this issue. Mr. Dineen noted that no one is in favor of this bill and wants the bill removed. Furthermore there is another bill being brought back regarding exemptions, which is another bad bill for Mass! Management will stay on top of this and report updates to the commission

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 made by Commissioner Olson and 2nd by Commissioner Popeo.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Jones
New Bedford Regional Airport