

Skyhaven Airport Advisory Council

Skyhaven Airport

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 51

Skyhaven Airport Community Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: *Friday June 10, 2011*

LOCATION: *Skyhaven Airport*

ATTENDEES:

Peter Bruckner	Fenton Groen	Brandon Giuda	Kenn Ortmann
Bill Richard	Frank Torr	Craig Wheeler	William Bartlett
William Beauvis	Stephen Bourque	Joyce Bruckner	Kelby Ferwerda
Paul Fleming	Mark Gardner	Drew Gillett	Winn Hayes
Bill Hopper	Sandra Keans	Jack Meyer	Bambi Miller
Nohea Nichols	Eric Obssuth	Gerry Peterson	Robert Rhoades
John Ricciotti	Ken Ricker	Jim Rogers	Victor Strawbridge
Larry Tibbets	William Wheet	Carlton Worster	

- SAAC Members in **bold**

7:15 p.m. – Capt. Christopher Dillman of the NHANG (New Hampshire Air National Guard) gave a presentation on MACA (Mid Air Collision Avoidance) and answered questions from tenants present. Capt. Dillman pointed out the website, www.seeandavoid.org where information about MOA's (Military Operations Area) are published for the safety of the flying public.

7:46 p.m. Chair Peter Bruckner began the SAAC meeting with introductions. Two of the SAAC's newest members, Senator Fenton Groen and Representative Brandon Giuda introduced themselves as this was the first SAAC meeting either of them had attended.

Kenn Ortmann made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2011 SAAC meeting. It was seconded by Craig Wheeler. Unanimous.

Peter Bruckner recognized Sandra Keans and presented her with a framed proclamation and aerial photograph of Skyhaven Airport on behalf of the members of the SAAC for her years of service to the SAOC and SAAC. Brandon Giuda also presented Mrs. Keans with a recognition from the NH House of Representatives for her years of dedicated service on both organizations.

Eric Obssuth of Aeroworks, LLC gave an update of his organization, saying that the past year at Skyhaven has been busy and that negotiations are underway with the PDA to take on more responsibility.

Kelby Ferwerda spoke about Skyhaven's flight school, Rochester Aviation, of which he is the owner. Mr. Ferwerda reported that to date, Rochester Aviation has acquired four aircraft, including a new Aeronca Champ which will be brought online soon, has hired four CFI's (Certified Flight Instructors) and has been responsible for 23 solo flights and six Private Pilot Certificates issued.

Peter Bruckner presented a chart depicting priorities of future projects with feedback from airport users ranking each of the projects along different parameters. Mr. Bruckner requested of the community that they use the Skyhavennh.com website to post comments and feedback for the SAAC. Mr. Bruckner also pointed out that any comments will be taken back to the SAAC at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting focus shifted to the recent property tax bills that were sent by the City of Rochester. Mark Gardner explained that the decision to tax the hangars and send out tax bills was solely the decision of the City of Rochester. He also explained that PDA was strongly opposed to the taxation of the hangars and that it was hoped that the matter could be resolved in favor of the Airport in the near future. Mr. Gardner distributed copies of a letter from the NH Attorney General dated July 1, 2010 addressed to Rochester's City Assessor. The letter sets forth the statutory basis as to why the AG's office believes the hangar units at Skyhaven are not subject to municipal taxation. Tenant Paul Fleming requested the help of PDA in scheduling an abatement hearing. Mr. Gardner indicated he would look into that possibility. Tenant John Ricciotti solicited advice from PDA, to which Mark Gardner responded by saying that he could not recommend that they not pay their tax bills. Tenant Jack Meyers suggested returning the unpaid tax bill to the city with a copy of the letter from the AG. Peter Bruckner suggested that it would be prudent not to rush to make a payment on taxes well in advance of the July 1, 2011 due date on account of the possibility that there would be a resolution of the matter before that time.

Peter Bruckner closed the meeting by asking for ideas for events to be held at Skyhaven. Some suggestions were a fly-in, a flour drop, landing contests, a BBQ and/or a band and an increased presence at the 2011 Boston Portsmouth Airshow. It was also suggested to add the Mustang Grill to the Skyhavennh.com website.

END OF MEETING: *Adjourned approximately 8:47 p.m.*

NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2011

FUTURE MEETINGS: To be determined

All Meetings take place in the Skyhaven Airport terminal building starting at 8:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Bourque for Chair Peter Bruckner