

Skyhaven Airport Advisory Council (SAAC)

Meeting Minutes – Meeting #94

October 5, 2020

Present:

Peter Bruckner, Chair SAAC, City of Rochester
Mike Scala, City of Rochester
Richard Jackson, SAAC
Rep. Ken Weyler, State Rep& SAAC
Jim Rogers, SAAC, City of Dover
James Gray, NH Senate, SAAC
Chuck Grassie, SAAC
Robin Comstock, SAAC
Dan Barufaldi, SAAC
Andrew Pomeroy, PDA

Next meeting:

TBD

1. Standard Topics

- a) Meeting Called to Order at 09:07 Via ZOOM online conference.
- b) Acceptance of the Minutes of August 8, 2020 Meeting – Accepted as written roll call vote, unanimous.

Finance Report- Andrew Pomeroy

- a) Report reflects first 2 months of FY2021. Very good summer so far.
- b) Hangar rentals and tie downs – revenue is up \$4,000 over last year. Hangars are now fully occupied and we have started a wait list again. In addition Hangar 5 is occupied and paying rent. FY19 Hangar Rental is up over previous year at this time.
- c) Fuel sales are up \$3,000 over previous year. Having a really good summer for activity and fuel sales.
- d) Both part time and outside (Portsmouth) labor are under budget so far this year. I do expect Buildings and Facilities shows an increase this year. This is attributed to increase in outside labor from Portsmouth International Airport. Labor and resources from the Portsmouth airport are being brought in to remove trees that were identified as obstructions, patch pavement and repair lighting that was damaged by lightning strikes.
- e) FY2021 Net Cash Flow \$79,000. Cumulative out of pocket for PDA since 2008 is \$1.7 Million, this is down slightly due to some AIP Project reimbursement.

Webpage:

The Skyhaven Airport's new webpage is up and running and is getting lots of positive response. Andrew reports getting phone call responses from Corporate Jet operators who have discovered Skyhaven as an alternative through the new webpage. One jet operator who had business in Rochester, had been flying into Manchester Airport and decided to use Skyhaven after seeing us on our new webpage.

Subcommittee Reports:

- a) Peter stated that as we are not sure where things will stand with COVID over the coming month or Year that it is too soon to be talking about Wings and Wheels. The hope would be to be able to host it in the early summer or if needed push it to September. There was a brief discussion of hosting a virtual wings and wheels event but Peter felt that the power in the Wings and Wheels event is that it is a “Hands on event” and he didn’t see how a virtual event would work. He was open to discussion. Dan Barufaldi, stated that thus far the Virtual Apple Harvest Day response has been minimal and he cannot recommend doing a similar virtual event.

- b) Dan, stated that with regard to the marketing committee that we should hold off meeting until we know more about where COVID 19 is going to take us. Dan went on to say that he wanted to enter in the record that, “Andrew has done a remarkable job marketing the airport in all the various aspects, with the increase in traffic, the addition of a new aircraft maintenance shop and potential flight school, the new webpage, and getting more flights in and out are watershed events for the Skyhaven airport, and we’re very grateful for those efforts.” Peter, “Yes, Let the record show that.”

Old Business:

- a) Airport Traffic Report: Andrew ran several reports for the committee. Andrew stated that we have had a great summer, breaking all previous records for flight activity. As of this meeting we have already exceeded the traffic counts for all previous years and we have three months to go. While the Portsmouth runway was closed for approximately 12-13 days in September. The flight school from Portsmouth, CHI took up shop in our terminal building, bringing five aircraft to Skyhaven. Andrew reported that he checked in nearly every day and the flight school was “going gangbusters” and very happy at Skyhaven as they were able to get the off street, walk in business that they don’t normally get at Portsmouth. CHI’s activity at Skyhaven garnered a lot of attention and excitement. Other business activity included a banner tow operator who brought a lot of attention to the airport, and increased interest and activity from corporate jet and piston aircraft operators who have business in the Rochester, Somersworth Area.
 - a. May Est 729 Operations
 - b. June Est. 1,439 Operations
 - c. July Est. 1,380 Operations
 - d. August Est: 1,456 Operations
 - e. September Est. 2,104 Operations
 - f. Total Ops 2019 Est 9,292 Operations
 - g. Total YTD 2020: Est: 9,772 Operations

- b) Andrew noted that despite the pandemic, our flight activity has increased greatly this summer as compared to last year. Numbers for June, 2020 are close are 50% higher than June 2019 despite the fact that the Wings and Wheels event had been cancelled this year. This jump is attributable to a number of factors. Good flying weather, and increase in based aircraft at Skyhaven, area flight schools resuming flight training after being shut down with a pandemic, and the closure of Biddeford Airport for runway reconstruction. CHI Aerospace was pleased with their experience at Skyhaven, and though they did return to Portsmouth, Skyhaven is definitely, “On their radar” for possible expansion. They sighted need for

hangar space as the one hurdle they would need to overcome. All hangars at Skyhaven are currently full, with a 13 person waiting list.

Taxilane & Drainage Rehab Project – punch list, Andrew Pomeroy

- a) The trench drain has been installed around the impacted hangars at T-hangar row 2. This was a \$250,000+ fix. So far it seems to be working well. With the exception of some small punch list items, this project is complete.

New Business:

- c) Dan Barufaldi reported that there is an Aerospace Engineering Co. in Dover that that is working with NASA and the USAF toward the Mars Landing initiative. Skyhaven could see activity from NASA people and government jets flying in for one day meetings. This work should start in about a year.
- d) New Mechanic on field
 - 1. Andrew informed the committee that he met with Mark and Tom the primaries of T-Aviation last week to work out the details on their lease. They are very excited to get started.
 - 2. T-Aviation has ambitious growth plans for Skyhaven to include a possible flight school and possibly an A&P/IA School for Aircraft Mechanics. Goals very much in line with those we've discussed here at SAAC.
- e) There was a discussion of media stories to get the word out about the new on field business and that lead into a discussion of the new web page and the news and events page that is still a work in progress. There was also a discussion of the benefits and pitfalls of social media, and a Facebook presence for Skyhaven. In general it was decided that unless someone was employed to maintain it and keep it up to date it wouldn't be beneficial.
- f) Skyhaven AIP work – Andrew informed the group that due to the CARES Act, the FAA will be funding 100% of 2020 AIP project instead of the usual 90% and 5% State share. For this reason the Skyhaven Terminal/tiedown Ramp design project is being moved up from 2021 to 2020. Construction will still be on track for 2022. This will essentially save the State of NH and the PDA their 5% shares. Hopefully we will have a Jacobs's representative present at our next SAAC Meeting to talk about the apron design.

Public Comment: None

Non-Public Session (If Required)

Next meeting: October 5, 2020 9am.

Meeting was adjourned at 09:59 AM Local time

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Pomeroy, for Chair Peter Bruckner.