

City of Keene
New Hampshire

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

9:00 AM

Terminal Building
Dillant Hopkins Airport

Members Present:

Curt Hansen
Richard Blood
Elizabeth Bendel
Peter Temple
Luca Paris
George S. Hansel, Mayor

Staff Present:

David Hickling, Airport Manager/Chair

Members Not Present:

Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Nathan Jacobs, Vice Chair
Councilor Mitch Greenwald
Brian Johnson
Bill Hutwelker
Alona Florenz
Joe Bendzinski

1) Call to Order

Chair Hickling called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2) Adopt January Meeting Minutes

Chair Hickling reported a few corrections sent to him from members. Page 2, next to last paragraph, should state that Mr. Blood suggested food truck rallies, not Mr. Temple. Also on the second page, 4th paragraph, it should state, “Mr. Hickling stated he has been communicating with Ms. Florenz, who provided him with data that would help depict Keene as a valuable market for potential air service provider.”

Mayor Hansel moved to accept the minutes of January 25, 2022 as amended. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Hickling stated after further thought he has decided a Vice Chair will be helpful for him to have, someone to confer with about board business such as schedules and conflicts. He

requested the committee nominate a Vice Chair. Mr. Paris nominated Ms. Bendel as Vice Chair. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Bendel accepted.

3) Airport Open House 2022

Chair Hickling stated they need to establish a task force/committee and a date for the airport open house discussed at the previous meeting. He suggested late August or early September. Discussion ensued with regards to committee formulation and Chair Hickling suggested at least 3 people from the ADMC would be an appropriate number. Mayor Hansel stated it would be more of a work group because if it's a subcommittee they would need to be noticed and have a quorum and minutes. Ms. Bendel and Mr. Paris expressed interest in being on the committee. Mr. Blood stated he would like to but it doesn't fit into his current schedule. Chair Hickling stated he will bring in his staff for set up, tear down, parking etc.

Chair Hickling referenced a list he compiled for everyone with regards to hosting an open house. He suggested that when the work group gets together they can then lock in scope and vision for the event. Mr. Blood suggested the possibility of fly-overs. Chair Hickling suggested static displays may be available as well.

Mr. Paris asked if it would be a two-day weekend event and Chair Hickling stated it will likely take place on a Saturday. Mr. Paris suggested they make sure they are aware of other events going on during the chosen date. Mr. Temple asked if they'd have Sunday as a backup day and Mr. Hickling stated that could be an option. Ms. Bendel mentioned it would likely depend on what/who they have at the event. Mr. Paris stated that if they have food trucks involved Saturday is a tough day, Sunday would be better for them; although, Saturday would likely be better for the event. Chair Hickling stated vending and food service will also depend on what they anticipate for a crowd.

Discussion ensued about the static displays. Ms. Bendel stated local pilots are fantastic about bringing their planes out for display. Chair Hickling stated they could also try to get some military aircraft as displays such as Black Hawk helicopters. Ms. Bendel suggested C-130 planes and a DHART helicopter. Chair Hickling went on to state that for non-aviation displays they could provide airport snow removal equipment. Ms. Bendel suggested bounce houses and trains to drive kids around. Mr. Paris suggested reaching out to the Snow and Ice festival contacts for the non-aviation entertainment like a train.

Ms. Bendel added that it can be a low budget event. Mayor Hansel stated they will need to talk to the City Manager about current insurance coverage. Chair Hickling stated he wants this event to be a warm up to an air show, a time for them to get the process down. Ms. Bendel mentioned that they will need to go through Flight Standards Districts Offices (FSDO) for sign off on the event and Chair Hickling stated they will also need to involve DOT.

Chair Hickling stated he has a contact with a 1:4 scale F16, with a turbine engine, painted like the Thunderbirds that he could bring in, which wouldn't be an airplane airshow. Ms. Bendel suggested RC aircraft (now called drones), which she's done for an airshow in the past and it went well. There was mention that they will need to check on FAA approvals and liability for the aforementioned.

Chair Hickling expressed that they are off to a good start and he will meet with Mr. Paris and Ms. Bendel to try and solidify a date and discuss further details.

4) **General Aviation Overview – Peter Temple**

Mr. Temple addressed the committee on general aviation, hoping that it might be helpful for members who aren't as familiar with aviation. He handed out copies of the General Aviation newspaper and started off by mentioning that General Aviation news has a variety of great content. He referenced multiple pages in the publication and explained the diversity of aviation activities and how many of them are practiced throughout the New England area. He described the importance of flight schools and training with a mention about the shortage of pilots, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), and their presence at the Keene airport and how they nurture kids' interest in aviation and give them a chance to go flying. Mr. Temple also talked about weekend fly-ins and cross country flights. The business aspects of aviation was addressed and Mr. Temple reiterated that there are a lot of different dimensions to general aviation.

Lastly, he pointed out the calendar and stated a lot of northeastern happenings don't make it into the calendar. He suggested the NH Pilots Association who has an active Facebook page that displays a lot of what's going on around the New England area.

Chair Hickling clarified that the FAA classifies general aviation as anything that's not commercial or military aviation. He thanked Mr. Temple for sharing.

5) **Old Business**

6) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Hickling adjourned the meeting at 9:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
David Hickling, Airport Director