

Matthew L. Walker
County Administrator



Ann Marie Ricardi
Assistant County Administrator

County of Middlesex

Airport Committee

AGENDA

May 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Terminal Building, Topping, Virginia

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2023
4. Public Comment
5. Committee Reports of Previous Activities
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
 - a. Oscar Barber Airport Updates
8. Public Comment
9. Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting – July 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Terminal Building, Topping, Virginia

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES

General Requirements:

1. Each speaker will give his or her name and address for the record.
2. Each speaker or individual will be given one opportunity to speak.
3. All comments and/or remarks will be addressed to the Airport Committee, not the audience.
4. Comments from speaker(s) representing a group:
 - Must represent four (4) or more individuals;
 - Individuals must stand and acknowledge that they are being represented by the speaker and that they forfeit their individual time to speak;
 - Are allowed 12 minutes to make their presentation(s).
5. Comments from individuals – allowed three (3) minutes each.

AT A MEETING HELD AT THE AIRPORT TERMINAL ON MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023 OF THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE

Present Jamie Barnhardt, At Large
 Richard Lewis, At Large
 Chip Holt, At Large
 Chris Moffatt, At Large
 Don Chapman, At Large
 Ann Jones, At Large (remote)

Charlie Beam, Airport Manager
Russ Perkinson, MOP
Oscar Barber, Airport General Contractor
Robert Roberts, MOP

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Jamie Barnhardt.

The committee addressed the issue of Ann Jones' participation and ability to vote remotely, given her health concerns. After some discussion, a motion by Chip Holt was proposed to approve Ann Jones' remote participation, which was seconded by Richard Lewis and passed with no objections raised, and as a result, Ms. Jones became a voting member of the committee, and there was now a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes: the committee discussed the January 23, 2023 minutes, which had an error in the date and time of the meetings mentioned under the Subcommittee Reports section. Clarification was provided, stating that summary minutes are utilized, except for any actionable items where verbatim minutes were necessary. Following this discussion, a motion was made by Chip Holt to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Chris Moffett and carried with no objections raised.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Airport Authority: The committee agreed to organize a meeting to review the airport's finances and explore avenues for becoming more self-reliant. Additionally, the committee decided to acquire a topographical map of the airport property to assess the available space for potential future development.

Date and time for Meetings: A motion was made to revise the bylaws to specify the times of the meetings. However, the motion was not seconded by any member. As a result, the committee agreed to table the matter and gather feedback from constituents. It was also decided that the meeting on May 22, 2023, would be scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and that the matter could be further discussed at that time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Vacant Committee Secretary: Jamie Barnhardt said that Ann Jones was no longer able to fulfill her role as secretary. Despite seeking volunteers to take up the position, no one stepped forward, and it was decided to postpone the matter for further deliberation. It was also mentioned that Richard Lewis would lend his support in performing the duties of the position until a new secretary was appointed.

Richard Lewis reported that Mr. Perkins and Mr. Beam walked the property to view the extent of the airport boundaries. Mr. Perkins pointed out an old road that is on the border of airport property and campground property. Jamie Barnhardt wanted to know if this would require a subcommittee to be appointed to further investigate. Richard Lewis stated that this would be premature at this juncture.

Event: The Committee talked about the upcoming Barflies event and ways to get ready for the arrival of several planes. They considered having a bulletin board to provide local information and offering a courtesy car for pilots. The Committee decided to hold off until they receive more details from the event organizer before making any arrangements based on the expected number of attendees.

Runway Update: Mr. Oscar Barber conveyed that he had reached a verbal agreement with Mr. Beam. As per the agreement, he would be responsible for mowing the grass within 120 feet of the centerline, while the County would take care of the remaining area beyond that.

Airport Lighting: Mr. Barber gave an update on the installation of LED lighting, stating that a significant portion of the shipment was expected to arrive on April 15, 2023. He stated that installation was expected to begin around a week later. The topic was then discussed further.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Russ Perkinson expressed his approval for the installation of airport lights but did not favor the formation of an Airport Authority and believed that the County should retain control over the airport. He also gave feedback on the minutes, emphasizing the importance of accurately reflecting the essence of the public comments.

Mr. Robert Roberts raised the issue of pilots flying over his house, citing both the disturbance caused by the noise and the irresponsible behavior of some pilots. He emphasized that he does not find this situation amusing and is aware of the potential risks it poses.

Mr. Oscar Barber addressed additional sources of noise in the vicinity, aside from the airplanes taking off and landing at Hummel.

Mr. Eric Deagle discussed his personal experience with aviation at a young age, working his way through obtaining his private and commercial pilot licenses and believes that aviation has helped the community and provided opportunities for younger people. Mr. Deagle also addressed concerns about the use of gliders and believes that they can be a valuable tool for learning stick and rudder skills for younger pilots.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm on a motion by Richard Lewis, seconded by Don Chapman. A voice vote was taken and was unanimously passed.