

DANBURY AVIATION COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Danbury Aviation Commission -- 7:00 p.m.
Danbury City Hall: 155 Deer Hill Ave., Danbury, CT 06810
Third Floor / Room 3C / Tuesday, January 15, 2008

01 Meeting Called to Order By Chairman John Ashkar

02 Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners Ashkar, Zilinek, Oppermann

Absent: Frizzell, Baker

03 Motion made to accept the October 16, 2007 meeting minutes as written, seconded and unanimously approved.

04 Liaison Report:

No liaison report was presented.

05 Administrator's Monthly Report:

Our attorneys are making progress regarding the aviation easements and checks will be sent. Negotiations are still in effect on Grenier and Wooster School. Legal has been in contact with the FAA to resolve any issues on the acquisition. On the agenda is a proposal from Centennial Helicopter which I recommend goes to Attorney Pinter for review and comment. Mr. Estefan read into the minutes a letter from Centennial helicopter (copy attached). Chairman Ashkar requested that the Legal Department and Centennial Helicopter receive copies of the last three months of noise complaints; which were distributed the first week of January, prior to any decisions being made.

Motion made to accept Administrator's Monthly report, seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion made to open Public Speaking, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Public Speaking:

Joan Sherwood from Arrow Aviation stated that most of the complaints about the helicopters are not Centennial's. The helicopters that the complaints are about are from Dutchess County and they come here for landing and training. Commissioner Opperman suggested we try to find out who they are and contact the operator and explain to them what has been going on. Mr. Estefan advised that LifeStar and staff flights come through here between Westchester and Hartford.

Robert Zohn, Business Aircraft, spoke about the FAA Aeronautical Study that was distributed and questioned the potential impact on the instrument approach procedures, which may displace further the threshold of Runway 26, is there an impact or not? Mr. Zohn requested clearer documentation from the FAA so we may comment and get a clear understanding of what is happening. He also commented that he is opposed to any type of construction that would have a negative impact on the airport regarding take off distances and/or approach procedures for arrivals or departures. Mr. Zohn would like to suggest that the light poles on Wooster Heights remain in that location but take the one that is located to the south and move it further south and take the north one and move that further north so that the aircraft can fly a stabilized approach directly down to the displaced threshold on Runway 26.

Mr. Estefan requested that all concerned should make comments to the FAA who will listen to the operators as it is your livelihood. Regarding the hazard beacons the time to attack that is when we are getting ready to do a grant on refurbishing the hazard beacons. They were refurbished in 1987 and are due to be done again. I would request a separate letter to me regarding the beacons so I can send it up to Gail Lattrell and Craig Bailey to review the refurbishing project.

Mr. Zohn advised with the limited amount and kind of equipment that the Airport has for snow removal, the maintenance department is doing a pretty good job this year.

Mr. Curt Brunjes, Curtiss Aero, commented that he was in favor of the special permit fee structure for Centennial Helicopter but would like to know if the commission would look differently at a helicopter operator as opposed to a fixed wing operator and if so, why. Chairman Ashkar advised that no comments will be made until the Commission is advised by the legal department. Mr. Brunjes would advocate a consistent policy that seeks to achieve the goals to support the small operator and would apply to fixed wing operators as well.

Mr. Andre Bohy, Danbury Aviation, what still remains to be done until the trees can be cut down. Mr. Estefan responded that the attorneys from both sides need to come to an agreement on a price otherwise Eminent Domain would take effect on the Grenier side. On Wooster School, once we acquire the rights to cut within a certain radius of 1-2 acres of property, would get a grant and start cutting trees. We do have some money to go in to cut some trees now.

Motion made to close Public Speaking, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Sadler Aircraft

Attorney Pinter reported that Attorney Hannafin and Attorney Gottschalk were in discussions and a new draft proposal would be submitted to Sadler in Florida; no comments received back. Attorney Pinter reported that proceedings have started to evict Sadler from the leased property as \$6,800 is due on lease payments and \$8,112 FBO fees. Attorney Pinter advised that Sadler was under notice for the lease eviction but not the FBO permits and suggest a Show Cause Hearing be conducted for the revocation of permits. Mr. Estefan suggested the legal department commence the process of revocation of permits. Discussions were made regarding the "grandfather" clause allowing Sadler to be an FBO. Attorney Pinter will review lease to determine if new owner would be allowed as an FBO, as well as the ramifications of the subtenant, AckEmma.

Motion was made to proceed with revocation of permits for Sadler Aircraft regardless whether Sadler Aircraft pays all past due fees and to table the proposal of aircraft condominiums seconded, and unanimously approved.

Centennial Helicopter

Attorney Pinter will review the Centennial helicopter proposal and report at the next Commission meeting.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, and unanimously approved.

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