

UNOFFICIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING

RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION

GENERAL AVIATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 9, 2004

11:00 a.m.

**in the Mary Brennan Board Room, T. F. Green Airport, Warwick,
Rhode Island**

The meeting of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (“Corporation”) General Aviation Committee was called to order by Chair, Charles Gaffney at 11:10 a.m., in the Mary Brennan Board Room, at T. F. Green Airport, Warwick, Rhode Island, in accordance with the notice duly posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Gaffney, Joseph Larisa (via phone).

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Michael Traficante.

ALSO PRESENT: Laurie Cullen, Sr. VP Planning, Engineering and Environmental; David Cloutier, AVP Commercial Programs; Ted Drozd, Chief Aeronautics Inspector; Steve Tibbetts, General Manager - Hawthorne Aviation; and those individuals listed on the attendance sheet attached hereto.

1. Approval of the Minutes: Mr. Larisa moved that the minutes of the General Aviation Committee Meeting of Thursday, July 1, 2004, be approved. Mr. Gaffney seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum: Mr. Gaffney invited members of the audience to speak in Open Session. None came forward.

Chair's Report: There was no report.

4. General Aviation Report:

Mr. Tibbetts reported that New England Airlines has reported a decrease in operations and passenger counts due to business transferring to the high speed ferry. Mr. Tibbetts reported that operations at North Central Airport and Block Island Airport are down as a result of bad weather. Mr. Pillsbury noted that North Central's operations were also impacted by the cessation of operations by the flight school. Mr. Tibbetts reported that fuel prices continue to rise and have impacted operations at all of the General Aviation airports.

5. Aeronautics Report:

Mr. Drozd reported on the follow up of the 5010 inspections at Quonset and Newport. Mr. Gaffney asked who receives the

inspection reports and who provides the oversight to make sure that any required follow up made. Mr. Drozd explained the letters go to both the location inspected and the FAA. Mr. Drozd stated that the Corporation is under obligation to repair any noted issues and to report them to the FAA. Mr. Drozd explained that RIAC's Aeronautics Department has the same authority as the FAA's inspectors as they are operating as agents of the FAA when conducting airfield inspections.

Mr. Drozd noted that Taxiway Whiskey at Quonset Airport is currently closed and will remain closed until needed repairs have been made. Mr. Drozd also stated that the perimeter road needs repairs and vegetation has grown back and will need to be removed to maintain clear airspace requirements.

Mr. Drozd reported at Westerly Airport there are vegetation issues on Runways 14 and 7 that will require cutting. Mr. Drozd also reported that trees will need to be removed at the end of Runway 32 adjacent to the property line and Runway 14-32 has been closed for repairs. Mr. Drozd provided an update on Richmond Airport and noted that the discrepancies noted have been corrected and there will be periodic inspections on the site. Mr. Drozd reported that there has been an inspection in Portsmouth for a helicopter landing pad and it has been approved.

Mr. Drozd reported there have been issues with the Non-Directional

Beacon (NDB) at North Central Airport and a letter has been sent to the FAA to have the facility decommissioned by the target date of November 25, 2004 and have it removed from the system.

Mr. Drozd reported that there was an incident at Newport Airport on August 24, 2004 when a pilot attempted to land and ran off the runway into soft terrain. There were no injuries nor was there any damage to either the aircraft or the airfield.

Mr. Drozd reported that the Collins Foundation will be at North Central Airport through Sunday, showcasing a B-17 and B-24 that can be toured for a donation, or taken out for a flight for a \$400.00 fee.

6. Discussion Items:

(a) Update on Quonset & Block Island Master Plans.

Mr. Mini reported that the Quonset Master Plan has started and a client group meeting was held on August 5, 2004 between RIAC, EDC, FAA, and the project team. Mr. Mini reported that the Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of the client group, Town of North Kingstown, RIANG/RIARNG, OQU Pilots, and airport neighbors and community members, will have its first of four meetings on Tuesday, September 28, 2004.

Mr. Mini provided an update on runway and terminal alternatives that have been developed for the Block Island Airport Master Plan. Mr.

Mini reported that the next step is for the FAA and RIAC to have a meeting on September 15, 2004 to review the runway and terminal area alternatives and to submit a finalized report to the FAA. The approval of Scope and Fees is expected to be approved by the Board of Directors in October or November 2005 after the scope is finalized with HTA.

(b) Update on General Aviation Airport Obstruction Removal Programs.

Ms. Hayes reported that the priority clearance at North Central Airport, Newport Airport, Westerly Airport, and T. F. Green Airport has been completed and Quonset is scheduled next. Ms. Hayes reported that the Westerly Runway 14 safety area construction has begun and will end mid November. The design for the removal of on and off airport obstructions will be presented to the Board in September for approval of the design fee and the earliest on airport removal could be Spring 2005. Ms. Hayes noted additional off airport easements are required.

Ms. Hayes reported the clearing at Newport Airport will begin between November and January 2005 pending a RIDEM permit. This project will include 12 acres of wetland and 1 acre of upland and a Coastal Resources Management Commission (CRMC) permit will be submitted by the end of this month to conduct priority removal.

Ms. Hayes reported the design and removal of on airport obstruction projects at North Central Airport are pending receipt of bond approval. Ms. Hayes noted priority cutting was conducted in January and February.

Ms. Hayes reported on and off airport obstruction removal clearing has been completed at Block Island Airport and the Nature Conservancy is expected to meet with the Block Island manager and Steve Tibbetts this month to finalize the Maintenance Agreement between all parties for the 15 acres of additional area to be maintained.

(c) Update on General Aviation Fencing and Lighting Program.

Mr. Sumner reported that on August 10, 2004, contractors received the Notice to Proceed for fencing at North Central Airport and struck an electrical cable that affects the AWOS and approach lights. Mr. Sumner reported that the construction company is currently working with the FAA and RIAC to resolve the issue. Mr. Gaffney asked if North Central was now without electricity and who is at fault. Mr. Sumner stated that pricing to repair the 800 feet of cable would be in today or tomorrow and North Central is currently running on a generator. Ms. Cullen reported that the contractors did not have access to the FAA plans and that contributed to the incident. Ms. Cullen stated that one possible option to expedite the repairs would be for RIAC to pay for the repairs and seek reimbursement from the

FAA. Mr. Gaffney inquired about the safety risk. Mr. Drozd reported it is not a critical risk. Mr. Gaffney stated there will be a lot of capital projects within the next few years and it is critical that there be clear communication between the contractors and staff to avoid further incidents.

7. Executive Session.

(a) Discussion Related to the Acquisition of Real Estate - R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(5).

(b) Discussion(s) Related to Potential Litigation – R. I. G. L. § 42-46-5(a)(2).

At approximately 11:23 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Larisa and seconded by Mr. Gaffney to go into Executive Session. By the following roll call vote the motion was passed unanimously.

YEAS: Charles Gaffney

Joseph Larisa

NAYS: None

At approximately 12:34 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Larisa to return to the Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaffney. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Future Meetings:

The next General Aviation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2004 at 11:00 a.m., in the Mary Brennan Board Room, at T. F. Green Airport.

9. Adjournment: Mr. Larisa moved to adjourn at approximately 12:34 p.m. Mr. Gaffney seconded the motion. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted

**Charles Gaffney, Chair
General Aviation Committee of the
Rhode Island Airport Corporation**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET
RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION
GENERAL AVIATION COMMITTEE**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

NAME AFFILIATION

Patti Goldstein RIAC

Liberty Luciano RIAC

Alicia Spearing RIAC

Steve St. Onge Hawthorne

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION
OF THE RHODE ISLAND AIRPORT CORPORATION
GENERAL AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004**

1. At approximately 11:53 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Larisa and seconded by Mr. Gaffney to go into Executive Session. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Cloutier reported that RIAC staff has reviewed all of the

information related to the potential purchase of the Harris Farm property and based on available information; staff is recommending that the Corporation enter into a purchase agreement to purchase the property at terms agreeable to both sides.

3. Mr. Cloutier reported that the Corporation is recommending that the jump schools at North Central Airport and Newport Airport acquire additional levels of comprehensive general liability insurance, in the amount of at least \$6 million dollars, and possibly more depending on the recommendation of RIAC's insurance carrier and general counsel. Mr. Cloutier suggested that letters be issued immediately requesting the increase in insurance. Mr. Cloutier noted further technical assistance should be requested from the FAA regarding compatible activities at general aviation airports. Mr. Gaffney requested a one page summary with staff recommendations be forwarded to the General Aviation Committee Board Members

At approximately 12:34 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Larisa to return to the Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaffney. By the following roll call vote the motion was passed unanimously.

**YEAS: Charles Gaffney
Joseph Larisa**

NAYS: None

Respectfully submitted

**Charles Gaffney, Chair General Aviation Committee of the
Rhode Island Airport Corporation**