

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2021

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) offices and via Zoom at 6pm.

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Kristi Morris, Springfield; John Saydek, Cavendish; Eric and Barbara Bye, at-large; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Diane Foulds, Windsor.

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Rollin Tebbetts and Amy Bell, VTrans

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

All present members of the TAC and guests introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Kristi Morris made a motion to approve the October 27, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by John Saydek. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Hartness State Airport Projects Update

Rollin Tebbetts provided an update on ongoing and planned projects at Hartness State Airport. The largest upcoming project is to resurface or reconstruct runway 5-23, scheduled for 2023 at the earliest. Exploratory drilling is currently underway. 90% of the project will be funded by the FAA and 10% by the State. First, easements need to be secured and cleared of obstructions (trees) in the approach surfaces. This has been ongoing for a number of years but considerable progress has been made. Discussion followed of how the airport's economic impact is calculated, how the FAA determines funding for runway projects and dimensions, the terminal building, cell and wifi service, solar panels, F-35s, and EV and electric airplane charging. Kristi Morris informed everyone that Springfield will be looking into extending sewer service to the airport.

5. Regional Transportation Plan Aviation Element

There was a discussion of the utilization of the airport and assertion that it is currently underutilized. Discussion centered around the list of needs and how many are designed to promote greater use. Arne Jonynas raised the issue of the perception of the airport as largely for private use, which led to a conversation around public use of the airport and the impact of the airport on the region and how that impact is measured. Tom Kenyon asked whether Zoom has had an impact on business travel to and from the airport.

5. Updates and Announcements

Otis Munroe provided updates on the upcoming round of Better Roads funding and an ongoing study to determine Amtrak station needs in preparation for future grants for station improvements. Tom Kenyon brought up the issue of limited parking at the Windsor platform.

7. Future agenda items & next meeting date

a. Next meeting: November 30

8. Adjourn

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by Diane Foulds. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.