

## OHAC - Owls Head Airport Committee - Meeting Minutes 10/20/2022

Members present:

Carson Courchaine  
Mike Keating  
Jeremy Shaw  
Lauren Swartzbaugh

5 Members of the public in attendance, including Steve Betts (reporter, Village Soup)

Meeting called to order at 1700

Jeremy Shaw had set up a laptop prior the start of the meeting and proposed YouTube be utilized so as to have a live airing of that meeting. Members unanimously approved, however, due to a technical issue this did not occur.

Due to Chair Lauren Dillard's absence, a motion and a second was made for Lauren S to act as chair for the meeting.

### **1. Review of 09/29 Meeting Minutes**

Jeremy requested a correction be made (re: APAC and grant applications) to read that applications are 'discussed' publicly and not 'presented' publicly for approval.

LS moved to approve the minutes as amended - Jeremy seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

### **2. Old Business**

#### *- Committee Membership*

Mike brought to the attention of the Committee that, during a recent Selectboard meeting the members prompted him to look into the origins of OHAC and why it was formed. Mike shared information he found in the Town office archives which was a copy of the Selectmen's Meeting minutes of 07/06/99.

Lauren asked Jeremy if he had anything he wished to add pertaining to committee membership. Jeremy handed out copies of an email exchange between he and Chair Dillard regarding his concerns about the community surveys. He requested feedback from the committee about whether his comments were 'angry, bullying and slanderous' and read the emails aloud.

Carson suggested that all members be cc'd on member communications moving forward, with which Mike and LS agreed.

Carson asked that if someone on the committee was not upholding their responsibilities or conducting themselves properly, is it the Selectboard that removes them. Collective comments were made that this seemed accurate as OHAC members are appointed by the SB.

LS felt discussion on this topic was important but should be had at another time.

#### *- Jeff Wetherbee Concern*

LS reached out to Ana Alley, on behalf of OHAC, per her father's request. She claimed to have seen some sort of contamination during her visits to the family property.

LS read notes taken from that conversation and Ms Alley's text communication w/ Jeremy. Jeremy indicated that the correct agency to contact would be Maine DEP and that he would provide that contact information to LS and it would be forwarded to Ms Alley.

- *Moratorium*

\* Schedule / Scope / Budget:

LS stated that OHAC has no budget, as confirmed by the Selectboard. Carson mentioned that the last day the Moratorium would be in effect and the day the Selectboard meets prior is unchanged.

Jeremy asked if OHAC is at a point to start working with other committees.

Mike suggested the members look closely at the 2016 Comprehensive Plan as it pertains to the Moratorium and that this could be part of the scope. Mike suggests OHAC members independently review the Comprehensive Plan and put on a future agenda items needing to be discussed.

\* Communication: Public Involvement / Survey Tally

LS commenced on the importance of having as much diversity in experience and perspective as possible and that much of the point of the survey was to serve as a way to receive feedback from a spectrum of residents broader than those who only attend town/committee meetings.

Jeremy handed LS a packet of copies, questioning the delivery method and reasons copies were made of the originals surveys.

LS stated that the sole method OHAC used for circulating Community Surveys was via USPS first-class mail. Jeremy raised questions about verifying legitimacy of the surveys. LS stated that no survey was tabulated without evidence of a verifiable code and # on every survey mailed. Those without were not tabulated and notated as such on that survey.

\* Communication: Selectboard / Town Committees / FAA

LS stated she didn't think Owls Head has any need to be communicating directly with the FAA. Those who are familiar and fluent with ordinance work in OH in the past should also be approached.

Jeremy asked if Chair Dillard requested OHAC be a standing item on the SB agenda to which LS stated LD had and the SB declined. It would be on an as-needed basis.

\* Discuss Current Ordinances

LS stated that an important aspect concerning to many residents is that Owls Head's ordinances have not evolved as the airport has evolved in terms of its size, function and services.

-- Non-conforming Use

Jeremy asked who can determine what this is. His understanding is that its not an all-inclusive list and that he was made aware that there are things that are possibly non-conforming that are not itemized. A question was raised about what list was being referenced, but that remained unclear.

-- Proposed Ordinances from Committee Members

Jeremy asked if a Town could establish the max length of a runway and stated his answer "would be no due to safety concerns and that the FAA would assert domain over that".

Mike asked if the members could look at current capabilities and capacities and ensure this ties in with the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the Town must be at some sort of capacity now and that things should be kept in proportion.

Jeremy said OHAC should look at runway width and that they don't have allowable space to widen it. He thought there could be an ordinance requiring a max runway width.

LS stated that there's a way to do this so as not to bog the public down with technical specifics and that it's more about what one aspect or change will result in or affect in the future, that people want to be understand.

### **3. New Business / Items From the Floor**

5 attendees contributed items from the floor throughout the meeting including: Lynn Chaplin, Maria Devery, Pam Maus and Jeff Smith.

Jeremy asked if the next meeting should be held in a month or sooner. LS and Carson suggested Thursday 11/03 at 5p. This date was unanimously agreed upon.

LS moved for adjournment; Carson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor at 1836.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Swartzbaugh