

SELECT BOARD
JOINT MEETING WITH NANTUCKET AIRPORT COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2024. The hybrid meeting took place in person at the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Select Board Members present in person were Dawn Holdgate, Thomas Dixon, Matt Fee, Dr. Malcolm MacNab and Brooke Mohr. Also present in person were Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson, Finance Director Brian E. Turbitt and Operations Administrator Erika Mooney. Assistant Town Manager Gregg Tivnan, Manager of Strategic Projects Chuck Larson, Environmental Contamination Administrator Michael Maynard and Attorney John Giorgio of Town Counsel's office were present remotely.

Nantucket Airport Commission members present in person were Chair Arthur Gasbarro, Phil Marks III, Anthony Bouscaren and Jeanette Topham. Andrea Planzer was present remotely. Airport staff present in person were Airport Manager Noah Karberg and Assistant Airport Manager Preston Harimon. Environmental Coordinator Cameron Woods, Richard Lasdin of McFarland Johnson, Jim Soukup of Weston Solutions and Airport Counsel Christina Marshall were all present remotely.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Holdgate called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM, following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. MacNab called the Board of Health to order at 5:00 PM.

Airport Chair Gasbarro called the Airport Commission to order at 5:00 PM.

II. JOINT MEETING WITH NANTUCKET AIRPORT COMMISSION

1. Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Airport South Apron Ramp Expansion Project. Chair Holdgate stated that the meeting will begin with a presentation from the Airport.

Airport Chair Gasbarro read a statement about the purpose of the subject project and its history, and a summary description of the project. He reviewed a timeline of the project and noted that bottled water service being provided to six specific homes will continue until a water main extension, currently underway, is complete. Chair Gasbarro reviewed funding of the project and the Town boards/committee which have reviewed it at public meetings. He introduced Airport Manager Noah Karberg to conduct a presentation of the project. Mr. Karberg provided an introduction of the project and gave website information where detailed materials may be found. Mr. Karberg and Airport Environmental Coordinator Cameron Woods reviewed the presentation as contained in the Select Board agenda packet.

Chair Gasbarro requested comment from the public and asked that people be respectful and refrain from repeating prior comments.

Jack Hallowell, stating that he is a registered engineer, after speaking on his credentials and clients and types of projects his firm handles, reviewed concerns about the project, including: the location of the expansion project (too close to residential areas), citing human impacts that he said have not been studied. He suggested the expansion be relocated. He expressed concern as to the berm proposed to be placed adjacent to the expanded area containing PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), he described as a "hazardous waste landfill", he suggested the berm be constructed of clean soil instead. He spoke on plane activity in this area of the Airport and suggested that planes be towed in and out (rather than powered in and out) of the expanded area, which he said would negate the need for the berm. Tom Sydlowski,

president of the Surfside Association, said that he and his association are aware that the project has been discussed publicly and it has been known that the proposed berm, containing PFAS was part of the plan. He said that if the project can be proven to be safe, he would not have an issue with it. Adam Ross, an abutter, expressed concern about the project, specifically with regard to health considerations. Richard Sheehan, an abutter, spoke on his own health issues indicating his belief that these are caused by the ingestion of water contaminated with PFAS. He expressed frustration with the project and asked that the contaminated soil be sent off-island and/or that Mr. Hallowell's suggestions be considered. Chair Holdgate asked about the possibility of removing the soil from the island. Jim Soukup of Weston Solutions, a contractor for the Airport, reviewed his credentials and spoke on the options that have already been considered by the Airport. He said that the soil in question does contain low levels of PFAS. He spoke on other areas of the Airport where PFAS contamination has been identified, mapped and addressed. He noted that the low levels he speaks of are common, all over the world. He spoke of a Town study done in 2019 where seven surface soil samples were collected randomly around the island and identified PFAS at five of the seven locations. [Correction by Town and Airport: This was not done by the Town, but rather independently by Waste Options Nantucket, the landfill operator]. He commented that PFAS is found in many household products. He said the berm is not a "hazardous waste landfill" and the PFAS level is lower than what Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) indicates is hazardous. He noted that these soils in fact are not subject to remediation. Chair Gasbarro asked about a comment made by Mr. Hallowell as to PFAS being released into the air from the proposed berm. Mr. Soukup responded and said that is not how PFAS is released. Mr. Karberg responded to the alternatives proposed by Mr. Hallowell indicating state, safety, environmental and other constraints that led to the current proposals. He reviewed the operational complications of the "tow in, tow out" proposal. Meridith Lepore spoke on her experience with her well found to be contaminated with PFAS. David MacKay spoke on his personal health issues and spoke against the project. David Sculthorpe spoke on light pollution coming from the Airport and said it should be reduced. Chair Gasbarro responded and reviewed what the Airport is doing to address this. Kristen Mello spoke against the project and spoke on PFAS contamination issues in detail. Emily Molden of the Nantucket Land and Water Council spoke on PFAS and environmental issues associated with the Airport project. She urged the Airport to come up with a plan to manage the project to address emissions and other issues. Dr. Tim Lepore spoke against the project. Brian Ludvikson spoke on concerns about the berm project with respect to noise and emissions issues. Ms. Woods spoke on the various types of noise that emanates from the Airport, including how it is measured, where it comes from and what can and cannot be done to address it. She reviewed tracked and measured noise levels over the past 20 years. Matthew Peel said that people in the area are scared and hopes that will be taken into consideration. Chair Gasbarro said that the Airport will take all of these comments under consideration, noting the proposed berm was planned before the discovery of PFAS. Ayesha Khan spoke on the science of PFAS. She asked if she could "yield her time" to someone else. Chair Holdgate spoke on the efforts the Town has undertaken to address PFAS issues which are not caused by the Town. Wendy Heiger-Bernase spoke on the "movement of contaminated soils". She said there is "good science", evidence and data of the hazards of berms such as what is proposed, and she reviewed a list of what those are. She spoke in detail as to the volatility of PFAS. Doug Kepple spoke on relocating the ramp expansion to a different area of the Airport. He spoke further on the need for sound mitigation. Dr. Kyla Bennett spoke on permitting for the project as related to the berm using soil with PFAS in it, stating she believes additional permitting is needed. Reed Sirak spoke in favor of the proposed berm as a way to mitigate and reduce noise impacts on nearby neighborhoods. Megan Perry spoke on environmental concerns with the project. Bruce Perry spoke on environmental concerns as well as permitting of the project. Sharon Flynn asked about the noise levels that would potentially be mitigated by the berm. Chair Gasbarro responded. Mr. Karberg elaborated on the decibel reduction level. Ms. Flynn stated that she believes the reductions expressed by Mr. Karberg are

“insignificant” and do not justify the berm. Some discussion followed. Suzanne Daub asked if a different type of barrier was considered. Chair Gasbarro and Mr. Karberg responded. Gabriella Burnham spoke on the purpose of the project and asked if the number of airplanes coming to the Island could be restricted. Mr. Karberg responded. Bob Walsh said he thinks the Select Board has the ability to protect the trees that would be removed for the apron expansion and the berm. He continued speaking about landing fees. Peter MacKay spoke on communication issues with the Airport Commission about PFAS. Paul DeRensis said he has been retained to ensure that this project does not proceed. He added that the project has serious legal flaws, including criminal, civil and personal responsibility issues. He revealed that there is a problem with the zoning of this area and said he has over 40 examples of other legal flaws. He reviewed penalties, including fines and imprisonment. He urged that the project be halted. Raymond DeCosta spoke against the project. Mr. Fee stated that he believes the Airport Commission and staff are trying to do the best they can for the Airport and the community. He said communications could perhaps be improved, and that additional efforts could be made to modify the project somewhat. He said there should be a community conversation about plane traffic. He added that the IRS is getting ready to “crack down” on private jet use and that may have an impact on private jet traffic to the Island. Ms. Mohr asked what the Airport’s options are with respect to delaying the project and using different material for the berm. She commented on the constraints of public projects with respect to seemingly simple solutions being quite complex. She thanked the attendees for their comments and concerns. She said that while the Select Board does not dictate to the Airport Commission, it can ask the Commission to consider other options. Chair Holdgate agreed. She stated that no one on any of the boards meeting tonight disagrees with the health concerns about PFAS. She asked that the Commission undertake some evaluation of alternatives. Dr. MacNab agreed. Airport Commissioner Tony Bouscaren spoke on the project and how it has evolved over the last few years. He noted that if people are speaking out against the berm in particular, the Commission should listen. He noted that the Commissioners live here too, they are volunteers and have to operate within the structure of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Board of Health member Ann Smith commented that the berm is “definitely” a health-related issue, and the Board of Health should be “deeply involved in thinking it through”. Airport Commissioner Phil Marks commented that PFAS is an inherited problem, that the Commission has done what it can with what it has and is working to make things as safe as possible. He indicated he would be willing to reconsider the berm. Chair Gasbarro concurred. Chair Holdgate asked if a majority of the Commission is willing to reconsider this project. Mr. Karberg confirmed that the berm may be reconsidered; however, the ramp expansion project is at risk for financial penalties if it does not proceed. Some discussion followed. Chair Gasbarro said he still was in favor of constructing a berm to help with noise and emissions but agreed that using PFAS soils is not the right material for construction. He said he appreciated many of the suggestions made tonight. Mr. DeRensis asked about tree clearing, which he said was scheduled to begin March 5. Chair Gasbarro spoke on reducing the amount of tree clearing for just the ramp, and not the berm. Mr. Lasdin said the number of trees to be cut can be reduced but it needs to be completed by April 1 per a Natural Heritage permit. Mr. Hallowell asked what the impact of not cutting any trees down for one week would be. Mr. Lasdin said he would have to review the schedule with the contractor. Ms. Mohr said what she is hearing is that the project is not being cancelled but the tree cutting must occur within a specific timeframe. Mr. Hallowell said he is okay with the Airport cutting trees where the ramp will be paved, only. Chair Holdgate suggested to Chair Gasbarro that only the trees where the ramp is planned to be get cut now and to leave the rest of the trees for the summer to see how they work as noise mitigation before a berm is further contemplated. Chair Gasbarro agreed. Mr. Dixon thanked the Commission for getting together with the Board on this issue and also thanked attendees for sharing their stories.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mohr moved to adjourn at 8:05 PM; seconded by Mr. Fee; all in favor, so voted.

Approved the 13th day of March 2024.

**SELECT BOARD
MARCH 4, 2024 – 5:00 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- II. 1. Airport presentation from 1/11/2024 re: South Apron Expansion Project; Airport presentation for 3/4/2024 re: South Apron Expansion Project