

**Rhode Island Airport Corporation
General Aviation (GA) Airports Strategic Business Plan
Town of North Kingstown Meeting – Quonset State Airport (OQU)
North Kingstown Town Hall, November 26, 2019**

Town of North Kingstown (Town) Attendees:

Gregory Macini, Town Council President
Ralph Mollis, Town Manager
Scott Kettelle, Fire Chief
Patrick Flanagan, Chief of Police

Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) Attendees:

Christine Vitt – Senior Vice President, Chief Infrastructure Officer
Brent Semple, Esq. – Corporate Attorney
Daniel Porter – Vice President, Planning
Jeffrey Goulart – Vice President, Finance & Business Development
Eric Seabury – Assistant Vice President, Engineering
Jeffrey Wiggin – Assistant Vice President, Landside Maintenance
Kerri Fadden - Assistant Vice President, Operations & Maintenance
David Cloutier – Assistant Vice President, Business Development & Commercial Programs
Patti Doyle – Public Relations Consultant

Meeting Notes:

- The meeting began with RIAC thanking Town officials for hosting the meeting and for their time and indicating the purpose of the meeting was to introduce the General Aviation Strategic Business Plan (Plan). RIAC further stated that we are asking for the Town's support in developing the Plan as well as their assistance in engaging community and stakeholders.
- All attendees in the room introduced themselves.
- Chief Kettelle stated he has been in his position 4 years and this is the first opportunity he's had to talk with us and he welcomes more communication. He indicated that someone vandalized, i.e. cut, the fire alarm wiring within the old terminal at OQU. He indicated this is a criminal act and noted he turned it over to North Kingstown Police to prosecute. He also mentioned that he didn't think the investigation was continuing. He further added he was happy to hear demolition of the old terminal building was in RIAC's plans. He indicated he was previously told that no one was working in the facility, yet he saw signs otherwise. RIAC indicated that they were following all requested requirements and that the former office had been moved into a separate rental trailer. RIAC also committed to keeping Chief Kettelle informed as progress is made.
- RIAC provided an overview of the five key elements of the Plan, including the infrastructure assessment, pavement assessment, airspace analysis, business and financial plan and stakeholder outreach. The status, schedule and cost of each element was reviewed.

- RIAC stated that their role is to provide a safe environment for aviation and to provide facilities that meet the needs of the State and local communities. RIAC is not here to dictate what the airports should be, but rather help implement what is defined as the future of the airport.
- RIAC provided an overview of the ongoing litigation in Westerly regarding obstructions and the effect that litigation is having on the utility of the airport. It was indicated that runways have already been displaced by more than 900 feet and that navigational aids have been impacted. It was noted that there was no near term end likely regarding the lawsuit and that the impacts are now starting to spill over into other airports including Newport State Airport (UUU). RIAC further reiterated that we were asking for the Town's support in joining the litigation.
- The Town asked why the law has not been changed if this had been going on for three years. RIAC explained that initially it was not thought the law suit would still be ongoing. RIAC also noted that legal interpretations may have "taking" as a Town authority.
- RIAC added that historically, the law intended for overlay zones to be enacted, all the way back to 1946. With the overlays in place decades ago, we may not be faced with this challenge. RIAC mentioned that it does not appear North Kingstown has put an overlay zone in place and requested they look into. The Town mentioned the State approved their Comprehensive Plan so they should be in compliance.
- The Town asked for a summary of the problem so they can share with their Solicitor for further discussion. The Town added that that reduced utility of other general aviation airports could increase activity at OQU and also bring other scenarios including the potential of medical emergencies.
- RIAC shared the results of recent aerial data that shows that there are currently numerous additional obstructions that require mitigation at UUU, and that we are likely going to have to displace the runway.
- RIAC also indicated that federal dollars that were received through a federal grant had to be returned recently due to our inability to remove obstructions at Westerly.
- The Town indicated that there is minimal public connection to the airport and it would be nice to change that as well as explore ways for business development.
- Next steps were discussed and the Town indicated that it might make sense to first meet on the business side, followed by a public meeting.
- RIAC offered to return to present to Town Council or any other group that may be beneficial.
- The meeting adjourned with commitment to follow up with scheduling future meetings for discussion.