



TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025, 11:00 AM

MEETING DETAILS

In-Person: Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport, 1002 Airport Rd, North Clarendon, VT

Committee Present: Devon Neary, Lyle Jepson, Charlie Rockwell, Victor Rivas, Mike Klopchin, Bob Knudsen, Stephen Molly, and Jim Marsh.

Others Present: Tom Burditt, Chris Keyser, Jane Keyser, Jim Harrison, Chris Beitzel, Evan Robinson, Chris Pritchard, Brian Collamore, Chris Howland, David Bosch, Terry Williams, Jim Casey, Eric McGuire, David Weeks, Alicia Malay, and May Howard.

MEETING MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME TO RUTLAND COUNTY DELEGATION

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM. Neary and Jepson welcomed the Committee members, Rutland Delegation members, and led introductions.

AIRPORT IMPORTANCE TO CLARENDON, REGION, AND STATE

Klopchin highlighted the importance of the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport (Rutland Airport) to the Town of Clarendon. As a member of the committee for over 30 years, Klopchin stated that he was excited for this opportunity to better highlight the airport and develop hangars to support the town. Neary and Jepson highlighted the importance of the Rutland Airport to the Region, including CEDRR's work at the Airport Industrial Park, ongoing economic development benefits from hanger development, the connection to tourism, and the need to better market and leverage the asset. Lastly, Beitzel highlighted the importance of the airport to the State of Vermont. As the airport manager, Beitzel discussed the state airport system and how Rutland is the only state airport with commercial air service, the connection to federal funding from the FAA, the need to maintain the airport for all the various users, and the opportunities for growth.

AIRPORT COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND NEED

Neary provided an overview of the history of the Rutland Airport Committee that has seen several variations over the past few decades, with the most recent attempt in 2022. Neary mentioned that there are new opportunities that make this moment for the committee different, as VTrans has completed their hanger pre-permitting program, many have expressed interest in hanger development, the need to better engage the region in marketing and



information, and how this committee, the delegation, and the region can better advocate for and leverage the airport. Neary also discussed how the new committee developed through conducting a SWOT analysis early in the process to clearly define the four main goals of the committee: (1) Committee will be the link between the airport and the Region, (2) Create a legislative priority list, (3) Develop appropriately sized hangers at Rutland Airport and transportation connections to/from the airport, and (4) Committee will bridge the gap between the community with engagement and education at the airport. The Committee is working on the first three goals by recruiting and formalizing the committee (goal #1), inviting the delegation and creating a legislative priority list (goal #2), and working to support hanger development at the airport (goal #3). The Committee still needs to elect officers but Neary asked that the delegation consider having one or two representatives on the committee.

AIRPORT COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Jepson provided the committee's legislative priorities, which need to happen in partnership with the Rutland Delegation. The priorities include: (1) marketing funding and support for activities and services as the airport, (2) create an ombudsman/concierge service for hanger permitting and development, (3) target funding to pre-permit and pre-development hanger construction sites including taxiways from NBRC, (4) – reform the aircraft use tax in Vermont, and (4) invest in Rural Airport Infrastructure and workforce. The delegation asked follow-up questions about the priorities and discussed both short term (airport tax) and long term (permitting/concierge service) strategies.

NEXT STEPS

Following the lunch and airport tour, the committee reconvened for next steps which included representation on the airport committee from the Rutland Delegation. Collamore agreed that two members with alternates would be best. The two regular members will be Keyser and Weeks with alternatives Collamore and Bosch. Neary and Jepson thanked the committee and delegation for a very productive meeting and stated the committee would reconvene in August to continue the work.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.