

Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport Committee

Meeting Minutes (Reconstructed)

Date: October 28, 2025

Disclaimer: These minutes were prepared after the meeting based on recollection and notes. They are intended to accurately reflect the discussion and actions taken but may be subject to correction at the next meeting.

Opening Discussion

- Jim Marsh opened the meeting with a discussion focused on revitalization and development at Rutland–Southern Vermont Regional Airport.
- Topics included infrastructure upgrades, increased commercial and general aviation activity, and modernization of facilities.
- Bob Knudsen emphasized the need for new hangars, modernization, and sustainability improvements.
- A sign-in sheet was circulated, and members noted the importance of maintaining accurate contact information.
- Bob reported ongoing efforts to identify funding sources, including a proposed bill to exempt aircraft sales from state sales and use tax.
- The committee discussed outreach to business and political stakeholders and collecting data on aviation demand, particularly from the Killington region.

Airport Development and Funding Initiatives

- Feasibility study to evaluate potential terminal expansion and modernization.
- Pursuing grant opportunities such as Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) funding.
- Legislative support for aircraft sales tax exemption as a growth incentive.

Aircraft Sales Tax Discussion

- Paul Carroccio noted the need to differentiate between general aviation and commercial classifications in tax language.
- He suggested that tax revenue generated at each airport remain earmarked for improvements at that facility.

Grant Opportunities

- Carroccio reviewed potential NBRC and federal programs such as the Innovative Finance and Asset Concessions Grant.
- Projects may include ADA upgrades, terminal utilities, and runway improvements.
- Deadline for NBRC applications: November 3, 2025.

Feasibility and EAS Subsidy Concerns

- Discussion on the feasibility study to guide investment priorities.
- Acknowledged potential impacts of the federal government shutdown on Cape Air's Essential Air Service (EAS) subsidies.

Hangar Development and PFAS Update

- Four new hangars are in development; PFAS liability will not transfer to tenants.
- Act 250 permitting expected to take 3–6 months, with submissions planned by March 1, 2026.
- Estimated construction cost: \$200 per square foot plus infrastructure.

Economic Development and Outreach

- Engaging contractors and business leaders such as Mike Salamato and Bruce Schmidt.
- Potential support from VEIL could be pivotal for project success.

Act 250 Permitting Discussion

- Concerns over complexity and delays caused by Act 250 requirements.
- Recommendation to reframe around modernization, safety, and sustainability.

Demand and Capacity Discussion (Killington Area)

- Kerah Book noted rising demand from Killington visitors and new residential development.
- Bob recommended gathering quantitative data on private jet activity.

Hangar Ownership and Safety

- Proposal for committee ownership and leasing of hangars as a revenue strategy.
- Safety concerns raised regarding aging hangars; state involvement may be required for condemnation or rehabilitation.

Action Items

- Brian Collamore: Edit the bill to exempt aircraft sales from Vermont sales and use tax (commercial operations still taxed except flight schools/training).
- Chris Beitzel: Identify and share grant opportunities; coordinate on terminal leasing possibilities.
- Jim Marsh: Oversee initiation of feasibility study and modernization plan.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion by Brian Collamore to approve previous minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: Chris Beitzel, with assistance from Microsoft Read AI

Reviewed and formatted by: Bob Knudsen (Vice Chair)