

**BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
SOUND MITIGATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 28, 2017**

**DRAFT**

**ATTENDEES:** Nic Longo, BTV (Chair)  
Gene Richards, BTV (Vice Chair)  
Amanda Clayton, BTV  
Kelly Colling, BTV  
Erin Desautels, Vermont Small Business Acceleration  
Sara Degutis, Jones Payne Group  
David Crandell, HMMH  
J. Jeff Munger, Airport Commission  
Helen Riehle, South Burlington City Council  
Thomas Chittenden, South Burlington City Council  
Pat Nowak, South Burlington City Council & Airport Commission  
Kevin Dorn, South Burlington City Manager  
Paul Connor, South Burlington City Planner  
Col. John Johnston, Vermont Army Guard  
Col. Chris Tomilavitz, Vermont Air Guard  
Jessie Baker, Winooski City Manager  
Robert Nowak, Logwood Street  
George Maille, South Burlington  
Brad Ferland, FM  
Neal Kandel, Williston  
Anne MacLeod, Winooski  
Aiden Watter, St. Michael's College

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**1.0 WELCOME, PURPOSE & MISSION**

Airport Director, Gene Richards, opened the meeting at 5:10 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were done. Nic Longo explained this is the third meeting of the Sound Mitigation Committee. Discussion will cover mitigation strategies as they pertain to the FAA and what goes into the NCP (Noise Compatibility Program) process in order to access federal funding for mitigation.

South Burlington City Planner, Paul Connor, asked for an update on the status of the reuse plan. Nic Longo explained there are three components of Part 150: Noise Exposure Map (NEM), Noise Compatibility Program (NCP), and Inventory of Acquisitions and planning process. The components will be presented to the South Burlington Planning Commission and the FAA for acceptance. The plan is to collaborate with South Burlington on noise mitigation in the area.

George Maille, South Burlington resident, asked if the redoing of the master plan by the airport contemplates incorporating input into the land re-use program. Nic Longo said much of the existing master plan has been reused and short term (5 year) realistic goals from the Land Use Re-Use Study have been incorporated. Gene Richards added the

bottom line will be available funding and whatever is the priority for the FAA. George Maille suggested the community and South Burlington city administration participate in the master plan rather than seeing the plan after the fact and reacting. Gene Richards said there was a tremendous amount of community involvement with the master plan and South Burlington was represented and signed off on the plan. The people most impacted by the plan will be represented. Amanda Clayton added there will be a regional aspect as well involving Chittenden County.

## **2.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### *Noise Exposure Map vs Noise Compatibility Program Timeline*

Sara Degutis, Jones Payne Group, gave an update on the status of acquisition of 39 homes in the 2015-2020 land acquisition program. The properties have been divided into four groups. Group 1 includes 11 properties of which seven have been acquired, two have accepted offers, and two offers are outstanding. Nic Longo said the airport received FAA money to finish the program and make offers to the property owners in order to move on to other mitigation measures. The FAA wants to use the 73 DNL line. The NCP update is being done to re-examine different measures for the noise mitigation program. The information will be reviewed with South Burlington and the community at large. There will be public engagement. An advisory committee will be formed. The review period by the FAA is 180 days.

The Noise Exposure Map will be updated with F-35 data. The airport capital improvement plan looks out 10 years for construction and planning grants. The Noise Exposure Map is one of the grants. By May 1, 2018 the airport will be applying for funding for a NEM update for F-35 noise. The NEM update for the F-35 will take 18 months.

Next steps with the NCP process include establishing an advisory committee in April/May 2017 to discuss land use measures ranging from land acquisition/relocation to sound insulation to aviation easements. All programs are voluntary. The residential sound insulation program covers residential only. The sound insulation program can include community buildings. David Crandall advised not mentioning schools in the NCP, but rather writing the NCP measures to adjust so the NEM remains valid.

### Questions & Answers

South Burlington City Manager, Kevin Dorn, stated South Burlington City Council passed a resolution that the grant be withdrawn and the housing acquisition program halted. Nic Longo said the airport is obligated by the federal program to continue purchasing the 39 homes before moving forward with other mitigation measures. If the program is stopped then all mitigation is stopped. Gene Richards added if grant assurances are not honored there will be a black mark against the airport which could adversely impact funding. It is the intention to end the program when done with the acquisitions and then proceed to other mitigation approaches.

Paul Connor, South Burlington City Planner, asked if a homeowner can opt out of the acquisition program then change their mind later. Sara Degutis explained if there are

funds available through the grant then the property could be folded back in. Gene Richards confirmed it depends on whatever is available for funding and programs. There are no guarantees. A few houses from previous grants plus the 39 houses in the current grant are being acquired.

Helen Riehle, South Burlington City Council, asked for clarity on when a grant ends. Nic Longo said each grant has separate budget and line items. Gene Richards explained the airport spends the money first and is then reimbursed by the grant. The airport is trying to close out the program and change to different sound mitigation efforts, but this will have different funding. Amanda Clayton said the FAA tracks the number of open grants. An exception was made with the airport because there was delay with some of the removals. The FAA wants to close the grants. Jeff Munger stated federal funding will be called back if the grant has been out for a long time.

George Maille asked what happens if money is not received from the state for the state portion of the funding. Nic Longo explained reimbursement is 90% from the FAA, 6% from the state, and 4% local. The airport can use PFC money for the local portion. Mr. Longo briefly explained the grant process. Pre-grant work is done (appraisals and purchase & sales agreements). The grant with a budget, addresses, and signed purchase & sales agreements and appraisals is submitted to the FAA by May 1<sup>st</sup>. When the response and paperwork is received from the FAA the airport proceeds with homeowners on the title, deeds, and other required paperwork. The airport fronts the money for each parcel using the airport's grant anticipation note and then submits to the FAA for reimbursement. At that point the airport can request the 6% from the state and do the local share. Amanda Clayton noted PFC applications are submitted to the FAA and it takes up to 18 months for approval and to get the money.

Jessie Baker, Winooski City Manager, asked if Winooski will lose the opportunity to make use of funding for the first year of the F-35 arrival because of the contour change. Sara Degutis stated the current NEM contour lines are funded through October 2019. Funding for the sound insulation program is based on how close the property is to the airport.

Kevin Dorn, South Burlington City Manager, asked if the priority is to get the NCP money first and NEM secondarily. Amanda Clayton said the priority is to address the noise mitigation program. Gene Richards reiterated there is no guarantee the airport will receive funding from the FAA. The FAA decides what is approved. Nic Longo said the airport has the money for the NCP process and this is moving forward with the knowledge the F-35 is coming. Sara Degutis said grant applications must be submitted during the grant cycle. The airport can apply for discretionary money if there is any available at the end of the year.

George Maille asked if the airport could fund the NEM for the F-35. Gene Richards said the airport would do this if it had the money. The grant anticipation note can only be used if there is a grant forthcoming. George Maille urged asking for the funds now. Gene Richards said the airport will take this under advisement.

Jessie Baker, Winooski City Manager, asked if the airport intends to apply for funding for the NEM by May 2017. Nic Longo said doing the NEM first would result in delay of funding.

Jeff Munger asked if homeowners who opt for sound mitigation with windows can have air conditioning installed since opening the windows negate the mitigation measure. David Crandell, HMMH, said the FAA will not pay for upgrade to electrical systems associated with air conditioning.

George Maille asked how the sound mitigation will be done. Sara Degutis explained a cross section of houses will be done as a pilot to assess what works best for sound mitigation treatment. Schools are not part of the pilot. Mr. Maille asked about assurance the funding for sound mitigation will include schools. Sara Degutis said averages across the country for the cost of sound insulation for schools will be researched and then the number customized. Expediting the schools should be discussed in the NCP process and with the FAA. Paul Connor urged ensuring the community is aware when the discussions should take place.

### **3.0 NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS GRAPHIC**

Postponed to the next meeting.

### **4.0 NEIGHBORHOOD PAMPHLET**

Nic Longo explained the plan to send out an information pamphlet to communities and homeowners outlining available programs, prioritization between residential units and schools, and what programs the FAA may approve. George Maille suggested doing a survey. Paul Connor suggested the NCP, NEM, and operational information be part of a communications plan for the communities. Regional Planning could assist. Posting the information on the website is a major component. Communications sent out to the homeowners and community should match with the timeline of deliverables and decision points. Jessie Baker suggested the timeline be given to city administrations to help reach people in the community and the airport should look to see what other airports have done.

### **5.0 WRAP UP & CLOSING**

Next meeting: June 13, 2017 at 5 PM

Agenda Items:

- Number of Complaints Graphic (including Army and Air Force)
- Communications Plan (draft)

Forward additional agenda items to Nic Longo by May 1, 2017.

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.