

MASS PORT CAC SUBCOMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH
9/13/17 Minutes
Approved 11/8/17

Members In Attendance

Wig Zamore (Somerville) (Chair), William Deignan (Community Development Department, Cambridge) and Andrea Adams (Department of Community Development & Planning, Watertown *(By telephone from Provincetown, MA)*)

I. Public Comment

Mr. Zamore, Chair, asked for public comment. Hearing none, he turned to the other Agenda items.

II. Review/Approval of Draft Minutes: 8/9/17

Mr. Zamore, Chair, asked for comments and a motion on the draft Minutes of August 9, 2017.

Mr. Deignan moved to approve the draft Minutes as presented. Ms. Adams seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Update on Progress with Logan Noise Office

Mr. Zamore noted he'd been in contact again with MassPort officials to start the process of getting noise reports. He said unfortunately, the Noise Office had still not contacted him back. He suggested the next step could be a letter from the MassPort Community Advisory Committee (MassPort CAC) Executive Board, or the Chair, Mr. Carlon. He remained hopeful that a new, productive rapport could be established with the Noise Office.

IV. Millennium/Winthrop Square Tower, Boston Financial District

Mr. Zamore noted that the MassPort CAC Executive Committee had met with the project director. He said the outcome of the meeting seemed to be an acknowledgement of the difficulty the new Tower would pose at approximately 750 feet, particularly concerning use of Runways R27 and 33R/L. He said his understanding was that the Tower would be lowered to a height below the "risk" height dictated by MassPort and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) complex flight restriction requirements.

V. Sub-Committee Review of the Boston-Logan Airport Noise Study (BLANS)

The MassPort CAC Environment & Health Subcommittee began the discussion of the BLANS using it and a list of all of the BLANS-related background documents as a WORD document with live links.

Mr. Deignan suggested that it would be helpful to gather more data on noise events. He suggested that since Logan was experiencing growth, there were new airlines at the airport, and larger planes. He wondered if this was causing more noise events. He also noted the use of Runway 33 has grown, more than would be accounted for by weather events. He suggested there be more data collection on single noise events in excess of a particular DbA level.

Mr. Zamore agreed, noting there may be a convergence of single noise events and an impact on the base DNL. He also suggested the BLANS perhaps over-focused on overflights, to the detriment of addressing issues of dwell and persistence. He noted there were currently 30 noise monitors, and most of them can detect a 5 DbA variation. Mr. Zamore suggested it would be good to re-visit the siting of these and new monitors, as they may have some difficulty distinguishing between noise from planes versus noise from passing vehicles.

VI. Adjourn

At approximately 11:15 AM a fire alarm sounded in the building, and Mr. Zamore and Mr. Deignan evacuated the building. Ms. Adams, who was at the meeting by teleconference, waited for approximately 10 minutes, and rang off.

Based on the understanding that a minimum of 3 members was necessary to conduct substantive business, the Subcommittee meeting ended at 11:15 AM.

Approved 11/8/17