

MASS PORT CAC SUBCOMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH
Minutes

Members In Attendance

Wig Zamore (Somerville) (Chair), William Deignan (Community Development Department, Cambridge) and Andrea Adams (Department of Community Development & Planning, Watertown)

Others In Attendance

David Carlon, Chair, MassPort Community Advisory Committee (CAC) *(Joined meeting after the start)*

I. Public Comment

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

II. Framing of Subcommittee Protocol and Tasks

a. Subcommittee Charge Using Aviation Subcommittee Template

Mr. Zamore noted that a critical task for the Environment & Health Subcommittee (Subcommittee) was to establish/create a Charge. He noted MassPort Community Advisory Committee (MassPort CAC) Chair, David Carlon, had provided him with the Charge for the Aviation Subcommittee.

The Members discussed general ideas on how to formulate a Charge, and it was agreed that Ms. Adams would take the lead on crafting a new Charge. A suggested draft Charge will be discussed at the next Subcommittee meeting, with hopes of getting a new draft to Chairman Carlon as soon as possible.

b. Subcommittee Protocols, Including More Advanced Notice of Meetings

The Subcommittee discussed how to attract more members.

Mr. Zamore suggested that more advanced notice of meetings would help, including setting a protocol of at least one calendar week advanced notice for the posting of the Agenda, with two weeks even better. He also suggested that with respect to choosing and locking in a date, time and place to meet, that Ms. Adams continue to use DODLE polling, or a similar method, with a reasonable time for members to respond, for any dates not set at prior meetings.

Ms. Adams noted that she was happy to provide a record of meetings/Minutes, and take on the scheduling duties, including interfacing with MassPort staff to have the Agendas properly posted.

Mr. Deignan suggested an Email be sent to the MassPort CAC membership, informing them of the next meeting, and advising them that the Subcommittee was seeking new membership.

c. Logan Update: Garage, Parking Freeze, DEP and SIP Revisions

Mr. Zamore noted that he had provided comments on his own behalf, and not specifically as a CAC member, to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office on the recent Environmental Notification Form relative to the 5,000 new parking spaces proposed as part of the international terminal expansion project. Mr. Zamore noted that his comments had been incorporated into the MEPA record, and included on the MEPA project website.

The Subcommittee then briefly discussed the potential implications of the proposed new parking, with respect to the work done in the 1970's, and a resulting Consent Agreement that resulted in a protocol imbedded in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) which deals with air quality impacts. Mr. Zamore noted the proposed 5,000 spot parking lot requires consideration of the existing SIP and mitigation.

Mr. Zamore noted that the next step in the MEPA review would be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which could entail a Draft EIRs and a Final EIR. He also noted that a separate Memorandum of Understanding between the Conservation Law Foundation has recently been executed and includes some new mitigation measures (over and above existing requirements in the SIP).

Mr. Carlon, MassPort CAC Chairman, came into the room, noting he was in the area, and decided to attend the Subcommittee meeting.

d. BLANS Study (Boston Logan Airport Noise Study)

The Subcommittee discussed their role in review of the Boston Logan Airport Noise Study (BLANS). Mr. Zamore suggested it is important to work collaboratively with the Aviation and Executive Committees as well, as these MassPort Subcommittees will also be involved in the BLANS review.

Mr. Deignan noted the BLANS had ended without a Runway Use Plan, which was an important consideration.

Mr. Zamore agreed, noting that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) study per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and MassPort was moving ahead. He noted a recent technical session made by the MIT group to the Aviation Subcommittee showed promise, in that the MIT group was looking at factors to control airplane noise such as the thrust of the airplane on descent and ascent, airframe air speed, and fancy noise modeling.

Mr. Carlon noted that it would be important to include a link to the MIT group's technical presentation on the MassPort CAC website. He also noted the website was improving, with additional data and links being added regularly.

e. Preliminary Engagement with Logan Noise Office

Mr. Zamore, following up on his comments with respect to the MIT study, noted that it was important look at noise issues in a global way with respect to surrounding communities. He noted that Logan maintained a system of 30 noise monitoring sites, which are used to "ground-truth" the noise modeling that is done by MassPort and its consultants and disclosed in their annual environmental filings (EDRs). He suggested that establishing contact between the Subcommittee and the Logan Noise Office as well as MassPort consultants tasked with this issue may be helpful as the Subcommittee conducts its BLANS review.

Ms. Adams agreed, noting not all monitors were the same in terms of their relative location, and that development that has occurred since the monitors were first placed and may now be impacting the monitor in such a way as it would be helpful to consider if the monitors are positioned properly in order to perform their job appropriately.

Mr. Deignan suggested one possible outcome of the monitoring could be to locate noise “outliers” with respect to aircraft overflights. For example, it may be that one flight route is causing undue impacts and could therefore be determined by looking at the monitoring data.

III. Correspondence from Milton

Mr. Zamore noted the prior discussion on monitoring was connected to a new charge to the Subcommittee from MassPort Chairman Carlon, which was to handle a request from Milton, MA CAC representative Cindy Christiansen with respect to aircraft noise monitoring information.

IV. Next Steps

The Subcommittee discussed next steps, and the consensus was as follows:

- Make a copy of the MIT technical presentation available on the MassPort CAC website
- Ms. Adams to draft a Subcommittee Charge

ADJOURN

Mr. Zamore asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Deignan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.