

Aerospace Committee Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, March 24th 2022

5:30 P.M. - Jonesport Town Office

Members: Rock Alley, Al Grignon, Tonia Merchant, Bill Nunan, Carrie Peabody, Irene Rogers

(Holli out, Logan retired from committee)

Agenda items:

- The minutes of March 17, 2022 were approved as written.
- Logan Alley has retired from the committee as he has recently been elected to the position of selectman. No conflicts of interest as Logan has been away from the committee for several weeks now and has had no involvement in the ordinance generation process. Congratulations Logan, wish you all the best in your new position and we trust you will do an outstanding job for the town.
- Al reviewed the Aerospace Project Plan and progress achieved to date. We are at 65% complete with project goals and have achieved all tasks through #53. The team discussed priorities, tasks and timelines for moving forward with the ordinance review/approval process. Al will incorporate all updates/changes to the project plan and send out to the committee this week.
- The team is in agreement that the school board meeting in April will serve as an appropriate forum for the aerospace ordinance review/vote. We also could schedule a public hearing but choose to add the ordinance article to the school agenda.
- Tonia suggested the committee put the draft ordinance out to the MMA for legal review, then to the Planning Board. Tonia will reach out to MMA and update the team this week. The team thought it prudent to seek legal review of the ordinance with a note of explanation for intent prior to having a Planning Board review. Once the Planning Board review is conducted and the ordinance is in order, it will be finalized and presented to the Selectboard for review. The team wants to ensure that nothing is missed and that no loopholes exist.
- The Annual Town meeting vote on commercial rockets resulted in 98 NOs and 25 YESs. With that the drafting of the ordinance resulted in a simple prohibition ordinance. The team discussed amateur rocket guidelines, rocket classes, definitions for spaceports/amateur rockets/commercial rockets. The team reviewed existing FAA guidelines and incorporated applicable restrictions/classes/definitions to the ordinance language. Potential exceptions such as drones were discussed and it was determined that drones may warrant a separate ordinance. To include

limitations on rockets within 10-20 miles of Jonesport, including airspace, could pose enforcement concerns, therefore the limitation has been deemed to be confined to The Town of Jonesport land mass and affiliated islands as noted in the Comprehensive Plan and town tax maps.

- Even though bluShift has announced a decision to abandon plans for Jonesport's Water Island and move launch operations to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, this does NOT mean that they won't be back to Maine. Based upon fast approaching deadlines to launch a next rocket by the fall of 2022, in order for bluShift to secure funding from NASA, the Jonesport site could threaten the grant deadline. bluShift is surely to return to Maine to pursue a new location to launch rockets. This plan will affect towns south of Jonesport as bluShift is looking for a spot between Bar Harbor and the Steuben/Milbridge area.
- The Beals Moratorium vote occurred on March 21. Beals held a town meeting vote which approved the 180 day moratorium to draft an aerospace ordinance. Beals is looking to potentially follow suit with an aerospace ordinance so that they too may protect themselves from future rocket activity.

The next AC meeting will be held on **March 31st at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office.**

Future meetings reserved for Thursday evenings at 5:30 at the Town Office:

April 7, 14, 21, 28

May 5, 12, 19, 26