

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER, 2007 MEETING

This is a new feature which will be expanded. To bridge the gap between the end of the meeting and the time when minutes of that meeting are posted, notes from the most recent meeting will be posted. Currently if you wish to comment on, add to, or suggest corrections to those notes, send me an e-mail. The ability to comment online will have to be reviewed before it can be implemented. The notes are not intended to be a substitute for minutes and should not be taken as either a complete or official record of what was discussed at the meeting.

Note that copies of past Notes will be saved as PDFs. Look for the index in the left margin.

- This meeting was lightly attended, partly because of weather and partly because of the press of the holiday season.

- The skepticism concerning the possible development of the East Ramp continues. Massport states that they are looking at generic development plans while some at the table cannot understand how any generic plan could possibly be of use since needs would vary based on type of aircraft and business model.

- Two packets of correspondence from AOPA to Massport were presented per a request from a member of the group at the last meeting. They have been scanned and posted. Click on the link in this note. It may be slow.

- Nobody from Bedford was at the meeting. There was interest in the Bedford take on the recent DEP hearing concerning wetlands. A report will be sought.

- On mature thought, January is probably not a good month for a wider meeting. Instead, we will use the January meeting for planning with the February meeting being the correct time for the desired wider meeting. A plan for that meeting will be presented at the January meeting.

- The new noise monitoring system is still not in service. There were several questions about what information will be available and how closely it will be integrated with flights schedules so that pinpointing of a noise source would be possible to a greater degree than is possible currently. Massport was reluctant to overpromise.

- The new Massport Web site is not yet active. There have been questions at the past two meetings about why no general beta testing with real users is being done. There is a feeling among some of those real users that any site that is not tested prior to going live will invite criticism because features that users want will not be included or will be hard to use.

- There was a statement by Massport that the Air Force does not own Hanscom. Rather, Massport owns it and supports the Air Force in its use. This is an interesting idea which will doubtless be explored further. [Note: This statement was later further explained by Massport and will be covered in a future Notes. Short form—the statement above is a misunderstanding which has been corrected.]

- There was a question from a participant about the commitment of the surrounding towns to Air Force use of the base. I believe that all the Boards of Selectmen of the surrounding towns have explicitly said that they support the Air Force mission and their use of the base.

- A Massport representative indicated that a selectman from Lincoln was not adverse to development of the base. This opinion was contested by a representative from Save Our Heritage.

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

This is another new feature. Please send suggestions for additional topics to me via e-mail. These haven't changed much since last month.

- Noise Reports
 - Are they needed?
 - Are they useful?
 - What changes could be made to make them more useful?

- Planning for February meeting with Massport and local officials
 - Focus of meeting
 - Attendees and how to invite
 - Structure
 - Venue

- More information on development of East Ramp area