

**Town of Norridgewock****TIF Advisory Committee Minutes****July 27, 2021**

Vice Chair Becky Ketchum called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM at the Town Office. Committee members Jessie Everett, Ruth Keister, Becky Ketchum, Drew Ketterer, Brandi Ireland, and Sallie Wilder were present. Also, in attendance for all or parts of the meeting were Town Manager Richard LaBelle, Glen Davis, Tim LeSeige, Brenda Morgan, Ken Morgan, and Gilbert Taylor.

Pilots and hangar owners Ken Morgan and Glen Davis started our meeting with a presentation about the new terminal. Glen Davis has been a pilot for 45 years; he is also an instructor. He shared many different programs that happen at the airport that many people aren't aware of.

The Maine Warden Service has a hangar for one of their pilots. The Warden Service pilot is called to help with things such as: search and rescue, lost hiker/child, and wildlife flights that study black bear and lynx. The location works well for them because it is centrally located, there is fuel onsite, there are multiple runways to choose from in different weather patterns, and they use instrument approach for landing. The State Police train at the airport; all State Police candidates must pass a course called EVOC, which is hosted at the airport. While they are there, they must sit in the grass to eat lunch and there are no indoor facilities for them to use. Those candidates largely end up using portable toilets.

Volunteer organization like Angel Flight and PAL also use the airport. They provide families who need transportation and couldn't otherwise get it. They use the terminal around 30-40 times per year. LifeFlight, Backyard Farms, Irving, McDonalds, and Origin are a few others that use the airport too.

Ken Morgan teaches flight training at the airport as well. He has been a flight instructor since 1982. Ken brought in testimonials from past students. They described the airport as being a critical part in their career paths.

The current terminal was built in 1970. This was all done from volunteer work and cost \$13,000. It is currently not ADA-approved. They showed us the Bethel terminal; they would like to see something like this built at the Norridgewock airport. There is a pilot planning room, kitchen, lounge, its paved, there is sufficient lighting, and there is also Wi-Fi available. There were no new cost estimates provided.

Brandi thought we should bring this to the Select Board for their opinion. Richard explained that there is grant money to do 95% of this work but it is likely 5 years away. Jessie suggested we get started on the grant to at least get this going. Richard explained that all these things need to be done but it never gets voted into action by the members of the Airport Advisory Committee because there is always something else that outweighs the need for a terminal upgrade. Becky asked what the airport terminal might bring for economic revenue generation for the town. Ken mentioned that Origin is looking to build its own hangar at the airport because they have such a need for it. This could potentially entice them to start a company in our area. There would be many benefits from doing it. The general consensus of the committee is that they are supportive of such a proposal, but would like to see more information regarding cost estimates, plans, etc.

The next item on the agenda was Oosoola Park and how we might be able to create a riverfront swimming area. With a building that produces Wi-Fi for everyone there, this building is estimated around \$15,000 to purchase. There was discussion about putting cameras there in case of vandalism. The Select Board wanted the TIF Committee to come up with other ideas, as well. Brandi mentioned renting kayaks/canoes from the building, giving it a better reason to be there and to validate the cost. Drew made a motion in favor for the cameras; Brandi seconded. Drew, Brandi, Sallie, Jessie in favor; Becky opposed. Motion passed. Becky stated she believes the cameras would be an invasion of privacy.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 24 at 4:00 PM

Becky adjourned the meeting at 5:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Everett

Secretary, TIF Committee