



Minutes of the Apr. 3, 2023 MAMA Board of Directors Meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The virtual meeting of the MAMA Board of Directors was called to order by President Matt Elia at 1:02 PM

2. **ROLL CALL** – Voting members of the Board of Directors in attendance:

- President Matthew Elia – HYA
- Vice President Chris Willenborg – BAF
- Secretary Dan Shearer – PSF
- Treasurer Andrew Widor – CEF
- Matt Cardillo – PYM
- David Dinneen – Gale Associates
- Jean Mongillo – Hoyle Tanner

Non-voting members in attendance:

- Thomas Hurley – Executive Director
- Paul McDonough – McFarland Johnson
- Natalie Pavelock – Jacobs

Guests in attendance:

- Denise Garcia – MassDOT Aeronautics

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

a. **2/17/23 BOD MEETING** – Chris W. motions to accept the minutes. Dave D. seconds. Unanimously approved.

b. **2/17/23 BOD EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING** – David D. makes motion to accept the executive session minutes. Chris W. seconds. Unanimously approved.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a. **CONFERENCE** – David D. & Paul M.

- notes the conference is scheduled for October 22-24, and save the date has been sent out. Two full days (Monday and Tuesday) anticipated. Committee meeting monthly via Teams, next April 18th, open to anyone who would like to attend. Still working on the theme. Anyone interested in joining, email Paul M.

b. **EMERGING LEADERS** – Natalie P. & Samantha S.

- Natalie P. notes that the group held a meeting held this last week, led by Samantha Smithies. Call to action for those interested in participating in On The Hill Day and boosting the Scholarship. Guest speaker, operations officer from RIAC, talked about next generation of aviation professionals.

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Planning upcoming meeting, tentatively May 12th at Westfield Airport. Inviting the FAA Regional Administrator. Planning recurring meetings, third Thursday 1-2PM, monthly.

- David D. notes that the meeting was excellent. Natalie P. notes that the monthly meetings are typically held via Teams. In-person meetings quarterly, one being at the annual conference.

c. EXECUTIVE – Matt E.

- Matt E. notes that following the Caucus meeting, Matt E. is receiving responses to requests.
- **MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION** – Matt, Chris, Tom scheduled to meet with the MassDOT Secretary and Assistant Secretary and their Chiefs of Staff on April 28th. Need to figure out messaging regarding support of airports.

d. LEGISLATIVE – Chris W. & David D.

- Chris W. notes meeting with Sen. Velis and Rep Blais, discussed tracking filed bills affecting aviation and working with their staffs to plan On The Hill Day.
- David D. notes federal legislation to allow 529 savings plans for pilot and maintenance training. Denise G. sending out written testimony to MassDOT board meetings. Recent testimony provided overview of MassDOT and activities, available if anyone is interested. David D. recommends that MAMA send in telephone testimony on a monthly basis. David D. notes concern with Denise G. update about the system plan lacking focus on aviation. MAMA need to consider how to address. Dan S. notes she mentioned aviation being part of “innovation” which might mean they’re looking toward “air mobility” and “drone” and less of traditional aviation. Matt E. notes that traditional airports seem to be less important to people. This needs to be a focus area, particularly with their Strategic Plan. Chris W. notes this is the first transportation plan for the new administration detailing the needs and agrees with concern that “innovation” will move focus away from airports. Paul M. recommends coming up with up to four talking points and balancing advanced air mobility, which requires airport infrastructure. Matt E. agrees that a concise focus and that any transportation without traditional aeronautics needs to become a priority concern. David D. notes that last year Denise G. mentioned the economics aspect, but she didn’t note it during her brief today; this should be part of the conversation. Tom H. notes that a discussion with NYAMA all talk with legislators includes an economic impact component.

e. MARKETING – Geoff F. & Dan S.

- Dan S. notes that the committee met, Geoff F. is working on an Airport Spotlight campaign to highlight member airports, Dan has been updating the website and adding events.
- David D. notes that social media is active, please like/follow if you have facebook or twitter. Meeting monthly now. Tom H. and David D. attended Aero Club of New England Crash Course.
- Jean M. asks if meetings are being included in the events list. Dan states not yet can. Also pages for the different committees.
- Natalie P. confirms she is working on the Emerging Leaders information and will send it out soon. Matt E. notes that the Emerging Leaders committee is unlike other committees (members doing work of the organization) as not all participants may be members and it may be considered a member benefit. The Board may want to consider that at some point.



f. SCHOLARSHIP – Andy W. & Dan S.

- Andy W. thanks Natalie P. for passing along the scholarship information to the Emerging Leaders group. The scholarship period is winding down. Deadline is April 30th, so far two applications.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT – Andy W.

a. 4/3/23 REPORT

- Andy W. notes that two accounts are still open, Conference Account has \$0.42 remaining, Operating Account is now the main account and asks what the Board's preference is on leaving the other account open or closing it? Matt E. asks if there is a cost, has concern about fundings going to that account not being able to be received. Andy W. will check to verify but believes there needs to be a non-zero balance and would like to consider putting anticipated conference funds into that account. Tom H. suggests looking into a CD or higher return for the cash that sits in the account. Dan S. notes that another Association he's part of did similar with an "easy out" CD. Jean M. is concerned that a CD might tie up the funds when needed for the conference. Matt E. notes that we really need to look at the budget and start putting actual expenses to each budget item. Account balance: \$65,843.58 Total.
- Jean M. motions to accept the Treasurer's report. Chris W. seconds. Unanimously approved.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Tom H.

- We now have 3 years of data available in Wild Apricot:
 - 2021 35 active members before campaign.
 - 2022 42 active members, totaling \$11,175 in dues.
 - 2023 41 active members, totaling \$10,350 in dues (so far). New members offsetting those who haven't renewed yet. Currently an 85% renewal rate with 6 still unrenewed. Doing well given the number of airports and organizations in the state.
 - 2022 not renewed: GBR, BVY, CNS Engineers, BED, GHG, & Ross Aviation (now Atlantic).
 - 2021 not renewed: AI Engineers, 1B6, Jacobs, Passero, & TAN.
- Dave D. motions to accept the Executive Director's report. Chris W. seconds. Unanimously approved.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. BY-LAW MODIFICATIONS – TABLED

b. MEMBERSHIP TIERS/RATES – TABLED

c. MA TAX EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMISSION – Chris W. notes an article about theorized potential tax revenues if the sales tax is repealed and suggests MAMA create an editorial utilizing the 2019 study highlighting the fair share that aviation pays in taxes and how those taxes won't be collected.

d. GBR STATUS – Dan S. notes that the Great Barrington Selectboard meeting tonight, vote on the Airport's special permit anticipated. Matt E. asks if the meeting is virtual. Dan S. believes it may be.

e. FINANCIAL DISCUSSION CONTINUED – No update.



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- f. **ON THE HILL DAY CONCEPTUAL UPDATE** – Chris W. notes that he is working out numbers to put together a budget for renting space.
- g. **ACONE CRASH COURSE REPORT** – No further update, see Marketing above.
- h. **NYAMA EVENT REPORT**
- Tom H. attended and notes that the President of NY’s organization works with a paid coordinator/consultant/lobbyist to plan an On The Hill Day that goes throughout the statehouse. Paul M. notes the consultant develops four main points. Meeting held to discuss needs and use of non-FAA project funds and FAA-match grants. Four to five NYAMA members visit with representatives of each of the nine regions.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- a. **SUPPORTING POLITICAL CANDIDATES**
- Tom H. received a robo call to attend Senator Velis reception. Board’s response was consistently to not participate. Chris W. believes that the organization’s certificate may allow lobbying. Tom H. agrees but notes that doing so would require the organization to apply to become a lobbyist, pay a fee to the state, and complete additional training. David D. agrees and notes prior research into the concept revealed the same and suggests the Board determines the limits. Matt E. asks if the Board would like to research this topic or leave it to the next Board. Jean M. notes that the next board will be voted in and suggests that Board should decide. Dan S. clarifies that his interest is to learn more but not act at this time. Matt E. notes that the majority opinion is to research the topic and let the Board decide on any actions at a future date.
- b. **ED PROPOSAL TO CREATE “PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES” AREA ON THE MAMA WEBSITE**
- Tom H. notes that there aren’t any direct member benefits for being a member of MAMA. Suggests developing an area of the website that would provide a directory of sorts which Members and Sponsors would have as a benefit. Natalie P. likes the idea and adds that the Emerging Leaders group to help with the legwork. Jean M. suggests having member fill out a business profile. Paul M. notes that it really doesn’t generate business since most work comes through bids. Suggests not mixing conference sponsor benefits with member benefits. Tom H. will start compiling contacts into a directory.
- c. **OFFER BY BRIAN SMITH OF MCFARLAND JOHNSON TO INVOLVE MAMA AND MASSDOT IN DBE PROCESS**
- Tom H. notes that he received an offer from Brian S. regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) process as dialog develops between MassDOT and FAA regarding bringing DBE into the bidding process. Chris W. notes that the FAA has a strong push for increasing DBE firms, MassDOT as well. There aren’t many DBE firms out there. Paul M. thinks Brian is suggesting it as an opportunity for members to get credit for participating in an event, but unsure if that’s the case. Matt E. notes that if that is the case, it would be helpful and a good member benefit.
9. **BRIEFINGS**
- a. **MassDOT Aeronautics**
- i. Denise G. provides the following updates:



1. Working on new administration transition. Appreciate MAMA's effort to meet with the new Secretary and planning an On-The-Hill Day.
2. Hired Dir. of UAS (Chris Bailey), military and drone background.
3. Hired Mgr. of Operations & Facilities (Shawn Benners) USCG background.
4. Reposting Mgr. of Operations & Compliance, no candidates with Part 107 experience.
5. Civil Engineer VI interviewing.
6. Working to hire Civil Engineer III and IV in the next weeks.
7. Senior Aviation Planner, 11 applicants.
8. Working on stem program, working with Greater Lawrence Tech School to develop an A&P program. More effort planned in workforce development.
9. System Plan.
 - a. Simultaneous with Aeronautics system plan, MassDOT long range transportation plan "[Beyond Mobility](#)". Aviation to be in Part 2 "innovation".
 - b. New overall plan for Aeronautics as a whole due to recent changes to the Division. Significant project.
 - c. Aeronautics working with Randy Wiedemann ([R.A. Wiedemann & Associates](#)) on the project. Firm will not bid on projects included in the plan.
 - d. Jeff DeCarlo seeks Counter UAS National Center of Excellence.
10. More fair share funds seeking to increase electrification and charging stations.
11. Developing Internal Control Plan (ICP) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) / Continuity of Government (COG). Uptick in audits with supplemental FAA funding. Significant improvements to organization upcoming.
- ii. Chris W. asks if MassDOT and FAA met up after CIP meetings from last year? Denise G. says they met last week to clarify draft requirements. They will meet again now that there's more detail on BIL funding. Drafts are due back to FAA within a month. Goal for CIP meetings late-Jul/early-Aug.
- iii. David D. asks if MassDOT will be involved in MassPort STEM program? Denise G. confirms yes.
- iv. David D. asks about the Statewide System Plan. Denise G. confirms that the plan will now include a "technology" portion that wasn't included previously. They are also issuing an RFP to develop a separate Aeronautics strategic plan; mission statement, visions statement, goals, etc.
- v. Paul M. asks if the Aeronautics Strategic Plan is separate from the State System Plan? Denise G. confirms yes.
- vi. David D. asks who in MassDOT is monitoring the various Bills relating to aviation? Denise G. notes that Shawn Collins (AOPA) does a good job keeping them informed when a contentious bill comes up. She and Jeff D. bring those concerns to their legislative affairs staff.
- vii. Matt E. offers MAMA's support during these upcoming plans in any way the Association can. Denise G. confirms several other organizations outside Aeronautics will be involved.
- viii. Jean M. asks to confirm that aviation is not until Phase 2 of the long range plan? Denise G. confirms. She will be looking into the details and was surprised to not be included in Phase 1.
- ix. Chris W. notes that with the upcoming meeting with the Secretary, he hopes that Aeronautics be included. Denise G. believes that the first section is likely to be traditional transportation (surface) with aviation being included in the second section with innovation. Chris W. notes his concern that a document for transportation funding omits aviation. Denise G. will share the Scope of Work. Matt E. confirms that they would like to set up a meeting with Denise G. and Jeff D. prior to the meeting with the Secretary.



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x. Denise G. notes that projects have been supported without funding appropriated.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – NONE

12. ADJOURN – Chris W. makes motion to adjourn the regular session into executive session and not return to regular session. Jean M. seconds. Approved unanimously. Adjourned to executive session at 2:44 PM.