Buildings & Grounds Committee Minutes January 11, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Committee Members John Lant, Dick Lucia, Tom Richardson, Kevin Tollisen and Sandra Winney. Supervisor Peck; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Chad Cooke, Tom Speziale, Public Works; Turner Bradford, McFarland Johnson.

Chairman Veitch called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, approving the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting. Supervisors Lucia, Richardson and Winney abstained. Motion Failed.

Supervisors Lucia, Winney and Richardson said that they were not in attendance for the December 8, 2020 and therefore cannot vote on the approval of the minutes. Mr. Veitch said that the minutes can be re-distributed for review and approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Veitch announced the appointment of Mr. Tollisen as committee vice chair.

Mr. Bradford gave an brief update on the Airport Projects currently underway and anticipate beginning in 2021. Maps were distributed with the agenda packet and is attached to these minutes.

- A. Wildlife deterrent perimeter fence: This is replacing the existing perimeter fence around the Airport with an FAA wildlife deterrent fence. It is taller with barbed wire on top and also goes into the ground to keep out burrowing animals. The project is underway. They are trying to get the majority of the work done during winter months and then move to the areas that are not butterfly habitat in the Spring, finish up in the Summer.
- B. Pavement Management Study: This is funded by the FAA, they have provided the funding to build and maintain the Airport pavements. The FAA ask for a rating on all of them and this helps to prioritize where funding will be spent, not only at Saratoga, but in the region and country. A study is undertaken of all the cracks and deficiencies. The field work is completed on this and now the figures are being compiled into a report. This report should be finished and submitted to the FAA spring/summer.
- C. SRE Storage Building: This is near the T hangars and is a State Funded DOT project. This will go out to bid in the first quarter of the year and is a 3-bay garage. They are looking to heat it, this will be an add alternate if it's within the budget. It will be insulated either way and will store snow removal equipment that does not have a current place to be stored at the Airport.
- D. Off Site Mitigation: This is not on Airport property but is associated with the Airport fence and upcoming taxiway project. The north and south sites are currently under construction creating wildlife habitat for the Karner Blue Butterfly. These sites were previously logged by the County, roots and topsoil stripped, in the Spring butterfly habitat will be planted which will eventually be accepted by DEC Fish & Wildlife incorporating into the larger habitat areas. The East site will be bit either late this Winter or early Spring and will undergo the same construction.

2021 Projects:

- 1. Off Site Mitigation: Bidding the East site as was previously done for the North and South.
- 2. Partial Parallel Taxiway: This will remove taxiway D so that jet aircraft don't have to go around to where the gliders are. This will decommission D and allow the gliders to use that for staging so that they are not on the grass in the butterfly habitat. A new taxiway D will be built which will allow jet aircraft to access the end of the runway and the terminal without going out and around.
- 3. Obstruction Removal Acquire Easements: Mr. Bradford said that they are looking to acquire easements on the properties of willing participants from the obstructions. As part of the master plan, obstructions were identified on all four ends of the runways. When the EA was done, they reached out to all of the people that own properties with obstructions. There were seven properties identified that were willing to participate in either providing easements or selling land. This was all approved in the EA and McFarland Johnson will reach out to the property owners, negotiate easements and/or purchase of property. This is scheduled for 2021 to be turned into a grant submission to the FAA either in 2021 or 2022.
- 4. Airfield Markings: Mr. Bradford said that this is a potential project if the DOT opens up another State funded grant program. It would entail restriping the existing pavement.

Mrs. Winney asked for background information on the County Airport projects. Mr. Veitch said that back in 2014 the County conducted an Airport Master Plan, and from that point until the next Master Plan is completed, there are several projects that need to be completed. Mr. Veitch asked Mr. Cooke or Mr. Speziale to share the Master Plan with the committee so that they all have a copy of it.

Mr. Bradford said that as a result of projects ongoing at the Airport, they have to mitigate any habitat of the Karner Blue Butterfly that is impacted. As part of the master plan update, they predicted all impacts that would be created over the next 5 years and created habitat sites with Fish & Wildlife and the DEC choosing beneficial sites near their existing habitat areas that are in keeping with their master plan for the Karner Blue Butterfly. As part of this, two permits were needed, one from the State of New York DEC and one from the Federal Government Fish & Wildlife, because they both protect the butterfly. The permits were issued at different times and with conditions attached to both. Fish & Wildlife issued their permit first with the condition that a long term management plan be created ensuring the long term protection of the property. This was completed and it was proposed that long term protection already existed in County Law §219. The State issued the permit with the condition that we establish a habitat protection easement over the habitats within one year. Mr. Bradford said that we are currently working with the DEC to establish that easement protection. Fish & Wildlife has provided an example easement to give them the ability come and monitor the habitat as they see fit. They are currently working with the DEC and hopefully this should be completed within the next 12 months. Mr. Speziale said that a Resolution may be required at a later date to convey the easement.

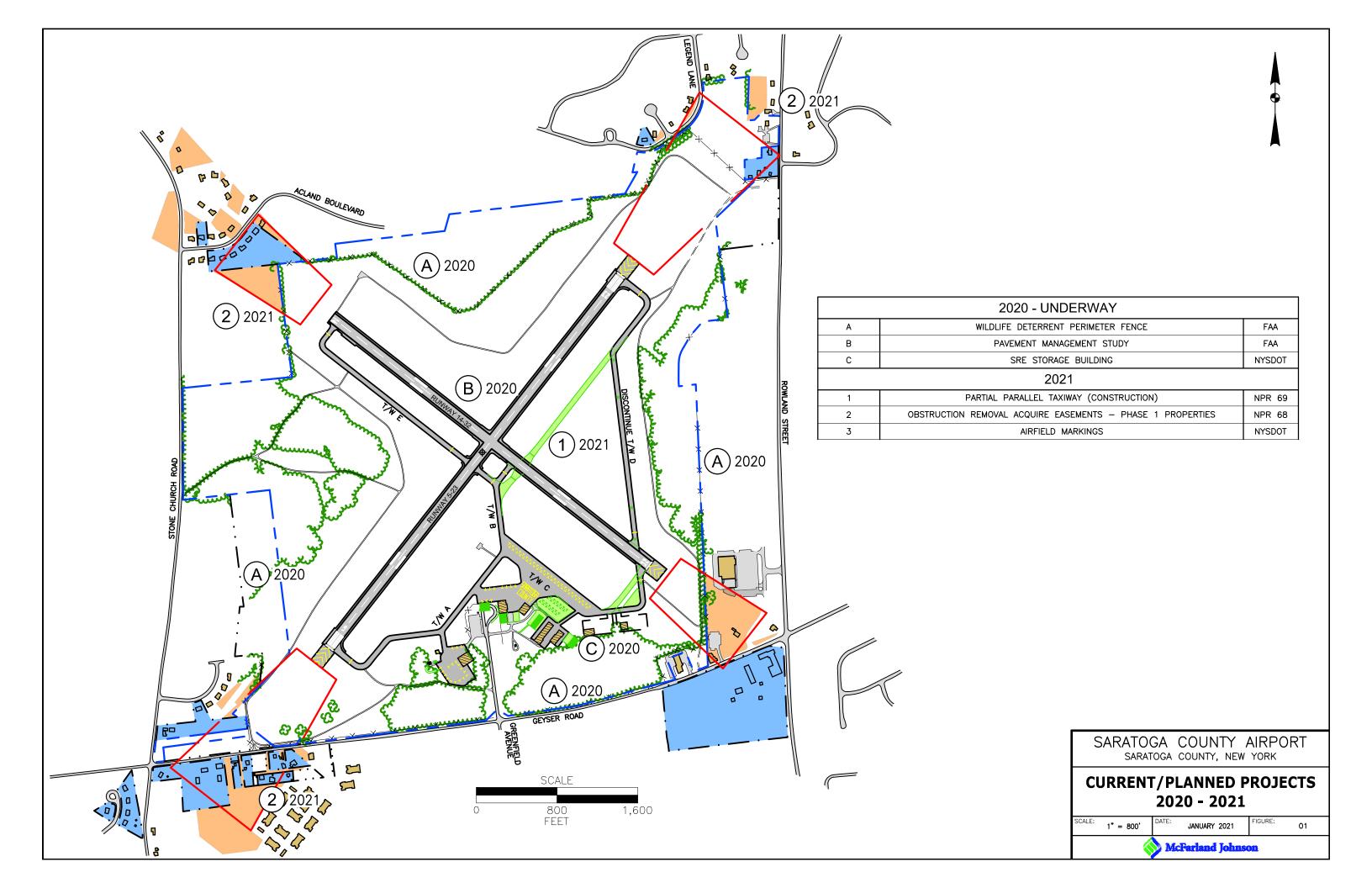
Mr. Veitch said that the current lease for the Gateway House of Peace expires on May 14, 2021. Local Law 02-11 only allows for 1 five year renewal, which has already been exercised. Mr.

Cooke said that they have a request from the Gateway House of Peace requesting an extension on their lease terms. It was unsure if a new Local Law was required in order to have a renewal lease. Mr. Veitch said that he believes the Local Law only authorized the County to go to 10 years and we are at that point now. Mr. Veitch also questioned if the lease would be for a term of 5-years with another 5-year extension. Mr. Veitch decided that this item be moved to the February meeting and in the meantime find out 1. if a new Local Law is needed and 2. What the Gateway House of Peace is requesting as a lease term length. Mr. Veitch said that he did serve on that Board for many years and they are happy with the facility and their relationship with the County. Mr. Veitch said that Gateway do end of life care for people that are having difficulty taking care of someone. There are two beds and assisted care is provided from the staff there. Mr. Veitch said they do a great job.

Mr. Veitch said that the executive session listed on the agenda has been a standing agenda item, but is not needed today. It will be kept on future agendas for now as we continue to move on with the Woodlawn Avenue building. At the last meeting in December, the committee authorized the County Attorney to move forward with a bid for an online auctioneer for the property at 31 Woodlawn Avenue. The bids documents have been made public and the bidding for that RFP is open until January 28th, 2021 at 5pm. Mr. Veitch asked Mr. Speziale and Mr. Cooke to inform the Committee Members to the extent that they can via email of what is going on with 31 Woodlawn Avenue, since many of this year's Committee members were not part of last year's committee.

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Therese Connolly Deputy Clerk of the Board



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Figure X: Off-Airport Habitat Mitigation Sites

