

Middlebury Airport Communications Updates

September 29th, 2022

Purpose: Enhancing communications between the Agency of Transportation, Town of Middlebury Selectboard, airport businesses and users, airport neighbors and the general public to assure regular, centralized communications to highlight news, events, issues and opportunities and to reduce miscommunications between all parties.

Formalizing the communications process: Share routine communications, which shall be prepared by the Agency and the Selectboard Airport Representative (currently Nick Artim), and posted on a monthly basis, including

- Status of current major activities at the airport (permitting, planning, construction of major projects)
- Planned maintenance which would be of a significant nature (minor construction maintenance projects that the public would take note of, maintenance of obstruction zones (tree trimming), spraying of fence perimeter, line stripping of runway, etc.)
- Notice of any pending permits
- Notice of events occurring at the airport
- Questions and concerns section reflecting inquiries received by the Agency in the prior month.
- Monthly updates will be posted to the Town of Middlebury Website and the VTrans Middlebury Airport Website

Master Hangar Act 250 Permitting Process ([Permit Application # 9A0158-12](#))

The public hearing was held on Friday, August 19th

Contact Information for Josh for all Act 250 related questions:

Josh Donabedian, District Coordinator
District 6 & 9 Environmental Commissions
Vermont Natural Resources Board
111 West Street | Essex Junction, VT 05452
joshua.donabedian@vermont.gov

Other Private Act 250 Permits Issued/Pending at Middlebury Airport

[9A0158-13](#) – Donald Arnold - Construction of a new 60' by 60' hangar at the Middlebury Airport on a site leased by the applicant located directly to the south of the existing terminal/maintenance hangar. Permit application under review.

Master Plan Process

1. Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 22.
2. Public Meeting on the Final Draft Plan will be held on December 14th.
3. There will be a 30-day public comment period following presentation of Final Draft Plan.
4. FAA review and sign off – December through early 2023
5. Public notice of any Plan modifications following FAA approval
6. Secretary of Transportation signs off on Final Plan - early 2023

On Airport Planned Activities for the coming month(s)

1. Winter/Fall Tree Trimming - VTrans will be completing the activities authorized through Act 250 Permit 9A-0158-11. This will involve selective cutting in the winter of 22/23 of trees not included in the area wide cut undertaken earlier in 2022.

Details can be found at this link:

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=9A0158-11>

2. Fuel Farm Replacement - VTrans' consultant had determined that the fuel tank will need to be replaced (see below). VTrans' has begun the process of design of a replacement fuel farm and will have a temporary fuel truck on field for airport users until the new fuel farm is operational.

Update on how the fuel system issues were identified – Dan indicated that through the regular monthly fuel testing, particulates were found in the fuel, we erred on the side of caution and discontinued fuel sales. The remaining fuel was pumped out to a truck to be taken away for disposal, once the tank was dry, the vendor went inside the tank to do a visual inspection and found that the interior coating of the tank separating from the tank wall, releasing the tiny particulates that were contaminating the fuel. The tank was of an age that we would not want to invest in refurbishing the tank's interior but determined that replacing the fuel system would be the best approach. Precautions with aviation fuel contamination are greater with than with car/truck fuel due to the severe consequences of fuel system failure during flight. Our current replacement practice is to move to above ground tanks when replacement is needed. A new system will be designed and installed. The Morrisville/Stowe Airport system was ordered in December of 2021, and we still do not have all of the parts to complete that job. It is unlikely that there will be a new fuel system in Middlebury for at least a year. The cost is anticipated to be about \$1M. In the interim a fuel truck will be stationed at the airport and operated by staff during specific hours.

Hangar Inspections

The annual inspection of leased hangars commenced on September 27th and will be wrapped up by the end of October.

Aircraft Noise & Flight Related Complaints

The complaint form on VTrans website has been updated to list the FAA contact information for aircraft noise and flight related complaints. Michele sent the updated form to the Middlebury Town Offices on 9/15 for updating to the Town website.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact:

Dan Delabruere, Rail & Aviation Bureau Director
802-279-2647

Daniel.Delabruere@vermont.gov

and

Michele Boomhower, Division Director, Policy, Planning & Intermodal Development
802-505-3480

Michele.Boomhower@vermont.gov