

MINUTES for LMT Airport Review Panel

February 16, 2023

Present:

Review Panel Members: Richard Preston, Joe Menard, Joanne Guiniven

Review Panel BOS Liaison: Dan Grenier

Trenton Threatened Skies (TTS) Rep: Judy Hoechner (by phone)

Others: Rett Campbell (NJ resident) and Connie Jacobs (Yardley resident)

Business:

With 3 of the 5 Review Panel members present, a quorum was recognized.

Richard Preston was re-elected unanimously as Review Panel Chair.

Joe Menard was elected unanimously as Review Panel Secretary

Review Panel Actions and Discussions:

- Judy Hoechner reported that TTS' lawsuit is in progress with the FAA having asked for several delays. As of now, the FAA response is due the end of February and TTS would then have to submit their response 30 days later unless there are further delays.
- Judy Hoechner also indicated that a second lawsuit was filed by TTS based on new findings that the Trenton Airport added another gate in 2013 which was illegally added, never made public, and never approved by the FAA
- At Dan Grenier's suggestion, Richard Preston is pursuing help from NJ's Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Food and Water Watch. Only Food and Water Watch has been responsive thus far, but Rich is following up with all of the above.
- Rett Campbell, a resident of Ewing in close proximity of the airport and a new participant with the Review Panel and TTS, recounted his past issues with the airport and offered to pursue questions about contamination in water and soil on his property.
- Connie Jacobs is assisting TTS, and indirectly the Review Panel, by monitoring permits, contract awards, news articles, etc about TTN activities.
- It was noted that the NJ National Guard has been evicted from TTN to make room for TTN's growth. This raises questions about what contamination they left behind.
- It was noted that the PA DEP is probably not a promising avenue for support since they would not see this advocacy as their job. The PA Governor and Attorney General are likely to be able to be more helpful.
- We discussed what we and TTS might do while waiting for the results of the lawsuits. One thing might be to reconstitute meetings of PA politicians to map out the help they could give. Steve Santasiero may be able to help in pulling this together and would include Casey, Fetterman, Fitzpatrick, or someone from their offices – recognizing that Casey and Fetterman both have health issues right now. To support this, we should have a Vision or list of items we are willing to negotiate on (noting that we probably have versions of this as a starting point). It was also noted that the FAA re-authorization is due this summer so it is an opportune time for pols to apply pressure to the FAA.
- We had a longer discussion about agencies that might have authority over airport environmental issues other than the FAA. The White House Council on Environmental Quality is the administration's lead. DOD may have a lead on DOD superfund site and the EPA may get involved. But FAA generally will have the lead on airport issues. At the state level, this probably does not qualify for a state EIS.