

December 17, 2020

Airport Commission review of Final Loomex report on HMA:

The Commission would like to thank the three owner Municipalities, their respective Councils and CAOs for their initiative in calling for this report. We have reviewed the Loomex Report and in general find it to be a very fair assessment of the overall state of the airport, its economic contribution, and its governance. We concur with the majority of the report's recommendations, and note the following specific comments:

- The Fuel tank up-grade was confirmed as an urgent need for the airport. The work of installing a new system is in progress with a completion date of December 2020.
- High Speed Internet access is being researched and basement tenant opportunities actively pursued.
- The Airport does have an Emergency procedures manual, and employee safety and training practices are in place, including COVID-19 protocols.
- Cross promotion of tourist initiatives is being improved and will be more effectively coordinated with North Simcoe partners (EDCNS, Municipalities, Heart of Georgian Bay, Chamber of Commerce, etc.).
- We welcome Tay Township being invited to have an ownership position in the airport.
- There is an ongoing need to match hangar availability to demand, which we are proud to announce has been steadily growing. Since this report's writing, 10 new electrically serviced hangar lots have been developed with paved taxiway runway access.
- The business case for a viable restaurant is problematic given the airport's rural/remote location. In 2021 the Commission will explore non-traditional food service options for its guests.
- The need for capital budgeting has been recognized and Loomex has strategically mapped out a good plan for short, medium, and long term needs.
- Flight School opportunities, in addition to Xstream Sport Aviation, are being investigated, as well as charter services related to tourism.
- The suggested runway extension and slope correction are sizeable capital initiatives which will require a thorough cost/benefit justification.
- The link to 7th line east would be a plus for large events, development opportunities as well as for EMS response to the south/east end of the property.

The Airport commission would like to note that many of the report's recommendations have been acted upon and further initiatives are being explored to increase activity at the airport.

Completed in 2020:

- Extensive Crack Sealing of Asphalt Surfaces
- Re-instatement of Instrument Approaches for Poor Weather Operations
- Fuel System Replacement
- Addition of Serviced Building Lots for Future Hangar Development
- Complete Re-design of the Airport's Website – Extensive Focus on Local tourism activities/attractions
- Improved broadband internet connectivity

Current Initiatives:

- Drone Manufacturing Venture
- Ultra-light Aircraft Maintenance/Training Facility
- Southern Terminus for a Sudbury Based Charter Operation
- Non-aviation Commercial Tenants

From the comments above it is clear the report has made sound insights and significant recommendations, which are aligned with the Commission's current work and future priorities. We note a welcome conclusion that the airport provides a positive economic impact for the area.

We look to the 3 municipalities to decide the skill sets needed to support the Commission in matters such as employment processes, lease details, drafting agreements, capital budgeting etc. The initiative to treat the Airport as a municipal asset is a welcome adjustment in policy and needs to be developed, from an operating and capital standpoint. There are many governance suggestions in the Loomex report that require assessment by the Owners, in cooperation with the Commission.

We note that the Commission currently has a mandate to conduct the business of the airport, and this may need to be modified to bring the Owners' interests into focus more. Councils could provide welcome support in areas such as Human Resources, Information Technology, accounting, etc. As the report points out, the commission is currently composed of 3 councilors, one from each municipality, together with 4 appointed representatives from the respective communities. Three of the current representatives have been with the Commission for more than one term. The idea of involving senior municipal staff on the commission would change its composition and likely its authority.

Notwithstanding, the current commission is committed to working on an improved operational and governance model for the benefit of all stakeholders.



Huronia Airport

We agree that a significant effort is needed to forge strong ties with ECDNS and the Heart of Georgian Bay and develop programs to better promote the airport. In addition, we concur with the idea of more frequent reporting by the Commission to the Owners, and this needs to be defined specifically.

Finally, we note that Tiny Township is assessing alternative sites for its new Municipal offices, and we submit that the Airport has abundant land for such a development, which would allow great flexibility, and benefit the airport's visibility in the community.

Huronia Municipal Airport Commission
December 2020