

New Terminal Building

New terminal building enters into phase two; engineer study next

By Shelley Farrington

MILLINOCKET – Plans for a new airport terminal building are moving forward as the input given by the Millinocket Sustainability Committee, community members and Millinocket Municipal Airport Manager Jeff Campbell have been put to paper in the form of concept drawings.

Millinocket Town Council Chairman Steve Golieb said phase one of the process is complete with the drawings submitted by local architect Patric Santerre and now the town waits to hear if a \$200,000 grant application submitted to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is funded so the project can move onto phase two which includes an engineering study and construction drawings.

Golieb said the economic benefits of the airport “are huge” with the revenues the facility generates on its own as well as the ripple effect of local businesses where patrons go to find food and other amenities. In addition Golieb said under Campbell’s guidance “millions of dollars” in grants have been obtained over the years and annual revenues of over \$100,000 have been generated.

Campbell worked with Santerre on the concept drawings for the new terminal which he said includes a space for an airline should one return to the airport to provide commercial transport. (Northeast Airlines operated out of the MMA in the 1950’s). The building will also provide much needed public and private meeting space for municipal conferences and meetings Golieb said, and it will also be available to rent out for other organizations and citizens.

Golieb said the town should find out if the phase two grant request will be funded sometime in August. When that is funded the town will move to phase three which is the actual construction of the building. He said potential revenue from a new solar farm to be located on airport property and other infrastructure grant monies will be used to help with construction cost.

The plans for a new terminal building came, in part, from a public building inventory project that a town intern did last year, Golieb said. The study showed that the airport building as the town’s fire department were the two worst performing buildings in the inventory in terms of energy expenses, repairs and ADA compliance. The airport building was the worst so ideas on what to do about the building have led to this.

Both Golieb and Campbell expressed excitement at the prospect of a new terminal building and all the opportunities that will come with it. Campbell is looking forward to displaying the history and pictures he’s collected and that have been donated over the years.

For more information on the airport go to www.millinocket.org or email Campbell at airport@millinocket.org