

HANSCOM AREA TOWNS COMMITTEE

Elise Woodward, Selectmen Representative
Hanscom Area TownS Committee (HATS)

In 1988, the Hanscom Area Towns Committee was established to coordinate the policies and activities of the four towns that contain Hanscom Field (Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln) in their relationships with the major organizations that operate in the Hanscom Field area including: the U. S. Air Force, the National Park Service, Massport, Lincoln Labs, and private corporations.

Selectmen representatives from each town comprise the committee with participation from Planning Board representatives. Since 2001, Selectmen representing the four towns serve on both Hanscom-related committees for continuity. The Environmental Subcommittee assists with review of environmental impacts associated with airport activities. In 2011, Concord chaired the HATS.

Highlights of 2011 Activities

The HATS Committee met 8 times in 2011. Highlights of HATS activities included discussions of:

- Energy Initiatives in the HATS Towns
- Outcomes from Town Meetings
- Challenges and Opportunities for Budgeting in FY13 including the impact of OPEB funding
- Conversations with members of Legislative Delegations including casino bills, redistricting, state budget negotiations, Crosby's corner construction
- Cable television: There is a hope to have collaboration across towns.

Crosby's Corner Construction: Federal funding for this project was approved in 2011. There will be some conservation and wetland remediation involved. It is anticipated that in early 2012 an award will be granted with construction to begin in June or July 2012.

Battle Road and Scenic Byway Presentation and Discussion: Corridor Management Plan: The BRSB was successfully created in the Towns of Arlington, Lexington, Lincoln and Concord. There is legislation proposed to extend the byway in Arlington and in Concord (to Barrett Farm).

Hanger 24 Amicus Brief Discussion: In January 2011 HATS filed an amicus brief together with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Congressman Edward

Markey, Congressman John Tierney, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, the Bedford, Concord, Lincoln and Lexington Boards of Selectmen, Friends of the Minuteman National Historic Park and the Parks Conservation Association, in support of an appeal of the FAA/EA approval in August 2010 to demolish and replace the Hanger with a FBO. On July 12th the First Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously denied the petition for further review of the FAA's EA allowing Hanger 24 to be demolished.

HFAC/Air Activity at Hanscom Field: In April, Streamline Air began a scheduled charter service twice daily between Bedford and Trenton. HATS continued to monitor the air activity and noise reports and submitted a letter to Secretary Mullan and the Governor again reaffirming consensus votes of the 4 towns for the shared vision for no additional commercial flights at Hanscom.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Update: The MPO renegotiated its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal government regarding how Boston's planning organization will accept and work with the State and federal transit to allocate funds in the future. The Regional Transportation Advisory council urged the MPO to fully fund the Crosby's Corner project. HATS sent a letter to MPO relative to the Crosby Corner funding supporting making funding available in September of 2011 for FY 2012.

Air Force Reorganization: Colonel Stacy Yike announced the organizational changes required by the Air Force to achieve Pentagon-directed budget reductions including reductions in approximately 300 staff positions and in some of the base service functions, consolidation of the Electronic Systems Center with leadership relocated to Wright-Patterson AFB, and initiatives to partner with local communities to support the services necessary to the Airmen currently provided on the base. In summary, 297 positions were eliminated from a total workforce of 4,000 civilian positions.