

VERMONT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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RE: TB-512 Petition to Name the Terminal Building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport the “Walter E. Houghton Memorial Terminal.”

Decision & Order

Procedural Background:

This matter stems from a Petition filed by Gerald D’Amico to name the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 5(b)(1)(2) “The Walter E. Houghton Memorial Terminal.”

On April 2, 2020, Gerald D’Amico filed a petition signed by more than 50 Vermonters with the Transportation Board (Board) seeking to name the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport “The Walter E. Houghton Memorial Terminal.”

On April 20, 2020, Board Chair David C. Coen, pursuant to Rule VI of the Board’s Rules for Naming Transportation Facilities, deemed the Petition substantially complete.

On November 16, 2020, the Board, pursuant to Rule VIII(A) of the Board’s Rules for Naming Transportation Facilities, scheduled a public hearing for December 17, 2020 and provided written notice to all parties pursuant to Rule VIII(A)(1-8).

On December 17, 2020, a remote public hearing was held by Board-appointed hearing officer Pam Loranger at 3 p.m. via Microsoft Teams due to restrictions related to COVID-19. The Petitioner attended and gave a presentation at the public hearing, which was attended by 14 members of the general public. The Transportation Board also accepted written comment both before and following the public hearing.

On January 27, 2021, the Board heard a presentation by Hearing Officer Loranger and deliberated on the petition during a regularly scheduled meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19.

Findings of Fact:

1. Vermont state statute designates the Board as the sole authority responsible for naming transportation facilities owned, controlled or maintained by the State of Vermont, including state airports. (Title 19 V.S.A. § 5(b)(1)(2))
2. By Rule, state airport terminal buildings are eligible to be named by the Board. (Vermont Transportation Board Rules for Naming Transportation facilities, Rule III(I))
3. State statute empowers the Board to exercise its naming authority upon receiving a petition signed by 50 or more Vermont Residents. (Title 19 V.S.A. § 5(b)(1)(2))
4. The Board on April 2, 2020 received a petition to name the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport that was deemed by the Board's Chair, acting pursuant to the Board's Rules for Naming Transportation Facilities, to be in order.
5. The Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport and its terminal building are located in the Town of Clarendon, Vermont.
6. The terminal building as well as the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport is owned, controlled, and maintained by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, which is an arm of the State of Vermont.
7. On April 17, 2020, Vermont Agency of Transportation Division Director Michele Boomhower emailed the Board informing it that while the terminal building contains a plaque stating that in 1986 Vermont Governor Madelene Kunin "dedicated" the "Rutland Terminal Building," the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport carries no actual name.
8. Walter E. Houghton was born December 18, 1940 in Rutland, VT and died on March 13, 2019.
9. Mr. Houghton served in the U.S. Air Force, was a commercial pilot and at times during his career was employed by the State of Vermont where he

