

TOWN OF CANMORE

AGENDA

Heliport Monitoring Committee
Canmore Civic Centre Council Chambers
Monday, June 10, 2024, at 9.00am

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Agenda for the June 10, 2024, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting

B. MINUTES

1. **Minutes for the June 12, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting attached and approved on June 20, 2023, in compliance with Bylaw 2018-18**

C. REVIEW OF HELIPORT COMPLAINTS SINCE LAST MEETING

1. **Stephen Hanus to Discuss any Complaints Received in 2023. (Verbal Report Only)**

D. REVIEW OF ALPINE HELICOPTER 2023 OPERATIONS REPORT

1. **Public Report**
 1. Todd Cooper Discuss 2023 Annual Report & GHG Reduction Plan.
2. **Stephen Hanus to confirm if Confidential Information supplied by Alpine Helicopters complies with the Lease requirements.**
3. **Recommendation:** that the Committee approve Alpine Helicopters is operating in accordance with the Conduct of a Helicopter business as set out in Schedule D of the Heliport Lease

E. UPDATE ON CROWN LAND HELIPORT APPLICATION

1. **Stephen Hanus to give an update on the Heliport application in the MD of Bighorn (Verbal Report Only).**

F. OTHER ITEMS

G. ADJOURNMENT



Alpine Helicopters Inc. Annual Report

Reporting Year: 2023

Robert Humphrey

March 31, 2024

Annual Highlights

In 2023, Alpine's tourism operations showed a strong return to normalcy following the pandemic slow down, with flight numbers reaching forecasted levels for the year. Tourism flights continue to contribute to the local economy, with approximately 87% of our tour passengers staying in accommodations within the Bow Valley either the night before or after their tourism flight. Alpine was also able to achieve an 11.46% efficiency increase with adjustments to passenger loading, equating to increased numbers of passengers aboard each flight.

Alpine is excited to have invested in a sustainable source of energy for the future operations of the Canmore Base. April 21, 2023 marked the day that our Photovoltaic System became operational and tied to the power grid. From late April to December 31st 2023, the system produced 28.93Mwh of clean energy. In December we launched our "Green Initiative" program providing a voluntary option for guests to add an environmental offset to their flights. The proceeds from this are put into a fund that is split between One Tree Planted and PlanetAir. For every person who adds this to their flight, one tree is planted in Western Canada and the remaining proceeds go to PlanetAir's Gold Standard – Certified carbon offset projects. For 2024, 75% of tour groups have opted into the Green Initiative. Participation in the "Green Initiative" program will be non-voluntary starting in 2026 for all tourism flights.

2023 marked another unprecedented fire season for Canada. Alpine's Canmore base worked 73 days of IA/Fire work within the Bow Valley. Alpine's fleet saw a 352% increase of fire fighting work above that performed in the 2022 season. Alpine's Canmore based helicopters responded on May 3rd to a fire in the Banff town site with 3 Bell 407 helicopters and one Alberta SRD 212 (also an Alpine aircraft). Thanks to the close local proximity of the aircraft and quick work from National Parks fire crews, we aided in containing the fire quickly, with minimal foot print.

Backcountry lodge operations remained one of the most utilized services provided by Alpine Helicopters. These services range from passenger transfer, maintenance material flights and resupply flights. In 2023 we worked with local private backcountry lodges, Alberta Parks' facilities, Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) lodges, Banff National Parks facilities and local outfitters.

Rescue operations are central to our business and we take pride in our provision of uninterrupted essential services for our community. In 2023 we conducted 270 rescue missions. Providing these keystone services we have the opportunity to work with many highly skilled individuals and agencies to provide search, technical rescue and enforcement.

In 2023, Alpine Helicopters donated to local charities and non-profit organizations in Canmore, and the Bow Valley area. This year our donations exceeded \$20,000 to help support our community. We are proud to support the Canmore Legion #3, the Make a Wish Foundation, The Hospital Activity Book for Children and the Canmore Folk Festival. Additionally we supported two groups specific to the Stoney Nakoda Nation through Iyahrhe Nakoda Food Bank and Eagles Nest Woman's Shelter.

Alpine helicopters is honoured and privileged to an important part of the unique and diverse community of Canmore.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Regulation Updates

- Alpine Helicopters is subject to regulatory audits performed by Transport Canada including aviation, maintenance and AOHS.
Transport Canada Dangerous goods - 2023
Transport Canada PVI - 2022
- Changes to Transport Canada’s “Flight and Duty” regulations took effect. The new regulations provide more stringent rest and duty times for all Canadian Commercial Operators. Alpine is currently working within these new regulations.
- **Accreditations**
BARS - Basic Aviation Risk Standard
ISNET World – Contractor and Supplier information management
COR - Certificate of Recognition Workplace safety
Energy Safety Canada – National Safety Association for Canadas Energy Industry
Complyworks – Compliance Management
CONTRAIL – Aviation safety
- **Internal audits**
Quality Assurance - annual
Safety Management Systems - annual
Certificate of Recognition - annual
Dennis Ford - Safety Management System (2017)
- **Inspections**
Fuel storage and handling - daily, monthly, annually
Base - daily, monthly
Fire suppression - daily, monthly, annually
Foreign object debris - daily

Itinerant Helicopter Operations

- Arrival and departure procedures as set out on Google Earth continue to be well received by transient aircraft frequenting the heliport.
- The main users of the itinerant parking are the RCMP, Canadian Military, select commercial operators and private aircraft.
- Itinerant helicopter operators have followed the guidelines provided to them prior to arrival and have been open to redirecting to other facilities such as Stoney Nakoda when requesting landing permissions.

Heliport Operations

Sightseeing Flights

- Tourism operations were slower than forecasted in the summer due to smoke and inclement weather contributing to a 51.1% increase in canceled flight days over 2022.
- These operations continue to be a vital part of our business and the business of Canmore's tourism industry.
- Tourism Operations continued to operate well inside the guidelines and rules, set forth by the Town of Canmore's lease for the Canmore Heliport.
- During the 2023 year, Alpine Helicopters **did not** exceed the allowable flights daily as per the agreement.
- Flights remained in the designated areas and continued to remain at/or above the 25 minute minimum set out in the lease agreement.
- Computerized booking programs have been implemented to cap and limit daily tourism flights, thus restricting activities within approved limits as set out in the Lease (Schedule "C" section 3 (a)) To Further ensure compliance with the restrictions Alpine has assigned the task of verification to the Senior Tour Pilot to confirm no exceedances have occurred. Full year (365 day), daily count flight numbers are provided to the Town of Canmore in this report (Schedule "A") to further show that no exceedances have occurred.

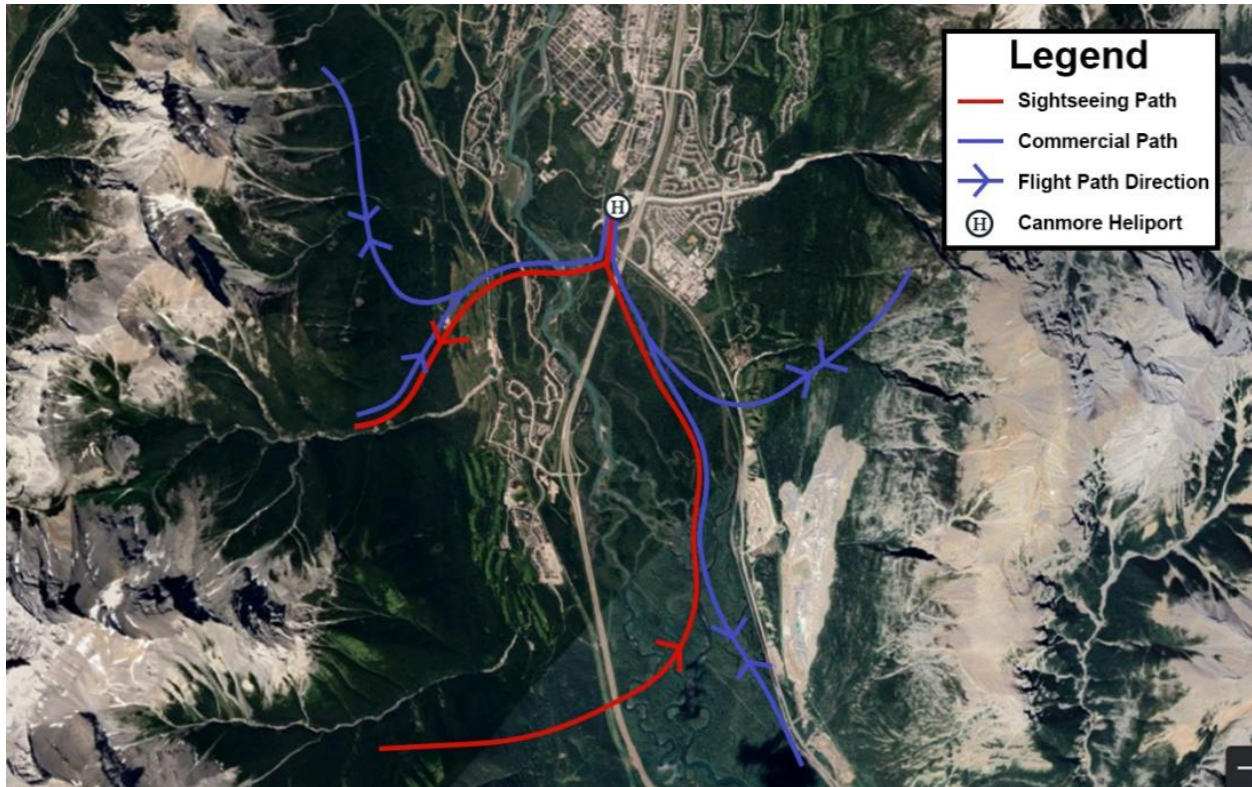
Commercial Flights

- Alpine continues to support the weather monitoring station at Cougar Creek for the Town of Canmore.
- In 2023 Alpine provided aircraft services for major trail reclamation and campground maintenance projects throughout Banff National Park, Yoho National Park, Kananaskis Country and Canmore. Projects included but were not limited to: Aster Lake Campground, Forks Campground, Prairie View Mountain trail system, Mt. Lady McDonald reclamation.
- Alpine provided transportation flights for University & Research Groups including:
 - Royal Ontario Museum (Burgess Shale)
 - University of Alberta
 - University of Calgary
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Parks Canada (Species at Risk, Aquatics, Bison projects)
 - Alberta Conservation
- Avalanche control was facilitated for Kananaskis, Banff/Lake Louise/Yoho National Parks, CP Rail, Sunshine Village, Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise Ski Resort, Baymag. We also aided in control work for the Trans Canada Highway, Highway 93 South, and Spray Lakes hill.
- Many utility infrastructure projects in the Bow Valley are ongoing and have used Helicopter services in the past year including concrete movement for Sunshine Village Ski Resort and Lake Louise Ski Resort lift upgrades.

Emergency Flights

- Alpine continued to provide essential services including rescue, firefighting, medivac transport and avalanche control seamlessly throughout the year.
- During the 2023 Fire Season wildland fire fighting activities included water bombing, fire crew movements, fire patrols, controlled burns and initial attack standby. During the season Alpine completed 73 days on fire fighting activities in the Bow Valley. During peak activity, Alpine provided up to 3 aircraft per day.
- On May 7th, 2023 Alpine sent a rescue aircraft and pilot to the Banff Disaster Readiness day to provide a static display and provide education on our operations in the Bow Valley.
- On July 29th, 2023 Alpine responded with Kananaskis Mountain Rescue for the search and later recovery (in coordination with TSB, RCMP, and recovery specialists) of a private aircraft crash on Mt. McGillivray.
- On August 8th, 2023 Alpine Responded with Parks Canada for the evacuation of 250 people from the top of Sulphur Mountain Gondola to the base following a Gondola mechanical issue. A second Alpine Rescue aircraft responded and worked in tandem to conduct the evacuation.
- On September 30th 2023 Alpine Responded with Parks Canada to a remote area of Banff National park for fatal Bear attack in the area of Scotch Camp.
- A total of 270 rescue missions were performed by Alpine in 2023, which is a slight decrease from the 277 conducted in 2022.
- We continued to have multiple aircraft and rescue pilots engaged in simultaneous rescue operations on a consistent basis. In 2023, we helped support various government agencies including Parks Canada (Banff) and Kananaskis Mountain Rescue/Alberta Parks, who perform the vast majority of these missions. Once again, the Calgary Medical Examiner, Golden SAR, BC Air Ambulance, RCMP, Parks Canada (Waterton, Glacier and Jasper), Crowsnest SAR and Alberta Health Services also used our services.
- In 2019, Alpine became the fourth operational location in North America to host and operate the RECCO helicopter search device, which is used to locate individuals wearing garments with the popular RECCO technology.
 - Alpine re-signed a RECCO equipment use contract on; April 27, 2022 for another 24 months.

Flight Departure/Approach Route



Fly Neighborly Program

Noise abatement is a top priority for Alpine. Pilot initial tour and recurrent training highlight noise mitigation procedures, including techniques recommended within the Fly Neighborly Guide issued by the Helicopter Association International (HAI). The Fly Neighborly “Helicopter Noise Abatement Recommendations” are posted in our facility in high traffic areas to help actively promote noise mitigation procedures. Annual company-wide digital training is also used to keep noise abatement a top priority for all staff.

Additionally, the “Fly Neighbourly” and Canmore specific approach and departure routes were posted in the Alpine Company News Letter (Q4 -2023) prior to the winter season and distributed company wide.

Noise Reduction

Research

- Airwork Helicopters blades “Operators flying in areas with stringent noise restrictions will find these blades especially valuable. Helicopters operating with the AMT-206-1 tail rotor blade demonstrate noise levels compliant with Stage 3 Noise requirements with an overflight noise level of 80.0 db”
- Airwork Helicopter blades are still in the development phase and not approved in Canada.

Implementation

- In 2019 we purchased a new set of Van Horn Aviation main rotor blades to match our previously upgraded Van Horn tail rotor blades to help reduce our aircraft noise footprint.
- Unfortunately in 2022 Alpine removed the Van Horn Main Rotor blades from service within the company due to safety concerns. Aviation occurrences in the industry with this blade type lead to this decision from Alpine.
- Operational changes continue to be implemented to help reduce idling and movement of aircraft.

Air Quality

Research

- Continued dialogue with engine manufactures on equipment improvements.
- Research and acquisition into Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) as they become available and cost effective.

Implementation

- Implementation of “Smokeless Liners” inside our Rolls Royce Engines.
- Operational changes continue to be implemented to help reduce idling and movement of aircraft.

Maintenance & Enhancement Summary of Leased Premises

- General maintenance and snow removal continue to be performed by Alpine Helicopters Inc. in addition to other activities including:
 - Re-finishing and painting of garden boxes and railings
 - Repainting of safety markings on the helipads
 - Installation of electric hand dryers in the tourism building
- There were two significant sewer backups into the tourism building in 2023 causing damage to the reception areas. The cause of the problem was isolated to a damaged sewer line under the parking lot. The line was excavated, repaired and the parking lot was repaved by a third-party contractor. Further remediation will be conducted in 2024 in collaboration with the Town of Canmore.

Climate Action

Annual aviation fuel consumption & GHG production

- Data Protected by the Freedom of Information (FOIP) Act 16(1)
 - Data provided to Town Of Canmore representative in Schedule “A” of Annual Report.

Annual natural gas, Electricity & GHG production;

| Fuel Type | Units | Annual Consumption | GHG Coefficient ¹ | Annual GHG Production |
|-------------|-------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Natural Gas | GJ | 559.77 | 0.05135 | 28.744 CO2e |
| Electricity | MWh | 30.114 | 0.510 | 15.358 tonnes |

Table Notes: (1) Town of Canmore will provide GHG Coefficient on an annual basis.

Climate action strategies implemented to reduce GHG emissions.

- As stewards of the community, Alpine continues to pursue alternatives to limit greenhouse gases. Environmental initiatives are a priority for our management team.
- When it comes to jet fuel for our helicopters, unfortunately we continue to be limited by the technology available to us in the form of SAF that are certified and approved by Transport Canada.
- A large Photovoltaic Solar array was installed on the commercial hanger in 2022. From late April to December 31st, 2023 the system produced 28.93Mwh of clean energy.
- Alpine launched a “Green Initiative” program in 2023 providing a voluntary option for guests to add an environmental offset to their flights. For 2024, 75% of tour groups have opted into the Green Initiative.
 - The proceeds are contributed to:
 - One Tree Planted – one tree is planted in Western Canada for each passenger in a flight group that opts in
 - PlanetAir – supports Gold Standard – Certified carbon offset projects
 - Participation in the “Green Initiative” program will be non-voluntary starting in 2026 for all tourism flights.
 - For further details on the Initiative please visit our web site at: <https://alpinehelicopter.com/green-initiative>
- Alpine conducted a review of our GHG emissions, which culminated in a report provided to the Town of Canmore on Dec. 31, 2023. It detailed current emissions vs. 2015 levels and presented current and future strategies to reduce our emissions by 30% by 2030.
- Alpine joined a SAF working group in 2022 to be at the forefront of SAF fuels as they become available to us.

**TOWN OF CANMORE
MINUTES**

Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting
Canmore Civic Centre, Council Chambers
Monday, June 12, 2023 at 9.00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nick Servos | Public Representative (Chairperson) |
| Frank Liszczak | Public Representative |
| Richard Berry | Public Representative |
| Todd Cooper | Alpine Helicopters Representative |
| Jeff Hilstad | Councillor |

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Stephen Hanus | Manager of Facilities |
| Charlie Liley | Facilities Administrative Assistant (Recorder) |

Chairperson Mr. Servos called the June 12, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee meeting to order at 9.02 a.m.

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Agenda for the June 12, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting
Committee members unanimously agreed to approve the agenda as presented for the Heliport Monitoring Committee meeting on June 12, 2023.
- B. MINUTES**
Minutes for the January 31, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting attached and approved on February 23, 2023 in compliance with Bylaw 2018-18.
- C. REVIEW OF HELIPORT COMPLAINTS SINCE LAST MEETING**
Mr. Hanus advised there were no complaints received in 2022, and no complaints received to date in 2023.
- D. REVIEW OF THE HELIPORT PAD REHABILITATION PROJECT**
Mr. Hanus spoke to a verbal report regarding the Heliport Pad Rehabilitation Project.
- E. REVIEW OF ALPINE HELICOPTER 2022 OPERATIONS REPORT**
Mr. Cooper spoke to a written report contained in the agenda package. (2022 Annual General Report Alpine Helicopters Inc.)

Mr. Cooper spoke to why certain data is considered confidential. Mr. Hanus confirmed that the 2022 Confidential Information supplied by Alpine Helicopters complies with the Lease requirements.

Minutes approved by: SH CL

Moved by Mr. Servos that the Committee confirm Alpine Helicopter is operating in accordance with the Conduct of a Helicopter Business as set out in Schedule C of the Heliport Lease Renewal initiated on December 1, 2021.

06-2023 HMC

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- F. REVIEW OF ALPINE HELICOPTERS GHG REDUCTION PLAN**
Mr. Cooper & Mr. Humphrey spoke to a verbal report on the Alpine Helicopter GHG Reduction Plan.
- H. OTHER ITEMS**
None
- I. ADJOURNMENT**
Chairperson Mr. Servos adjourned the June 12, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee meeting at 9.49 a.m.

These Minutes confirmed and adopted this 20th day of June, 2023.



Stephen Hanus, Manager of Facilities
Town of Canmore Designate
On behalf of the
GM of Municipal Infrastructure



Charlie Liley, Facilities Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by: SH CL