
Seaside municipal airport

Deanna Mancill <dmancill@msn.com>

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To: "councilorsharon@cityofgearhart.com" <councilorsharon@cityofgearhart.com>, "councilorgould@cityofgearhart.com" <councilorgould@cityofgearhart.com>, "chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com" <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>, "councilorfackerell@cityofgearhart.com" <councilorfackerell@cityofgearhart.com>, "councilordevereaux@cityofgearhart.com" <councilordevereaux@cityofgearhart.com>, "mayorsmith@cityofgearhart.com" <mayorsmith@cityofgearhart.com>

Councilor Sharon mentioned a topic at the Seaside Municipal Airport committee meeting. The request for tie-downs in the City of Gearhart's jurisdiction of the airport concerns me greatly.

My understanding of state land-use laws concerning airports, when the airport is partially within another city's jurisdiction, the request for either tie-downs or hangers need to be formally submitted to the Gearhart Planning Commission.

The zoning is RA (residential/agriculture) which means it isn't an outright use for airport uses. The last couple of years, Seaside Airport Committee had wanted the RA zone changed to AD (airport development) This tie-down idea is just another end run around the citizens of Gearhart.

The land inside the City of Gearhart's jurisdiction, east of the paved runway, is comprised of freshwater wetlands. North of Oster Road, the Seaside Airport property is entirely freshwater wetlands.

Adding additional aircraft impacts Gearhart residents. This proposal needs to be formally considered by the Planning Commission. The citizens of Gearhart can then have an opportunity to comment on this.

Please enter this letter into the public record. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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WHA

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SB1576

This message serves to inform you of the recent enactment of SB 1576 by Governor Kotek, which addresses recreational immunity for improved trails in Oregon. The bill was signed into law March 27th 2024 and came into effect immediately. As a result, trails closed due to the Fields v. City of Newport court decision can now be reopened.

Impact of SB1576

SB1576 allows cities to keep trails, bridges, staircases and the like open to the public to recreate without subjecting local governments to liabilities and risk associated with the use of these improved trails. CIS released an update March 27th retracting their earlier recommendation to close improved trails. Local governments across Oregon can now communicate to the public that trails and recreational facilities are accessible and will remain so throughout the summer season.

Temporary Protection

It should be noted that this measure is temporary, with its protections expiring on January 1, 2026. Efforts are underway to develop a permanent solution, expected to be in place by 2025. At WHA Insurance we offer comprehensive services tailored to the unique needs of Public Entities, including loss control and risk management strategies to enhance safety and mitigate potential liabilities for improved trails. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our office.

Thanks,

WHA Insurance
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