



East Hampton Town Board

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937
www.ehamptonny.gov

Carole Brennan

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

6:30 PM

L T V

I. Call to Order

6:30 PM Meeting called to order on August 27, 2014 at L T V, 75 Industrial Road, Wainscott, NY.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kathee Burke-Gonzalez	Town of East Hampton	Councilwoman	Present	
Peter Van Scoyoc	Town of East Hampton	Councilman	Absent	
Sylvia Overby	Town of East Hampton	Councilwoman	Present	
Fred Overton	Town of East Hampton	Councilman	Present	
Larry Cantwell	Town of East Hampton	Supervisor	Present	
Carole A. Brennan	Town of East Hampton	Town Clerk	Present	
Elizabeth Vail	Town of East Hampton	Attorney	Present	

II. Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez's opening statement

Town Hall Meeting Introductory Statement

Good evening and welcome to this town hall meeting. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to comment on a problem that has gotten much worse and has gained increasing attention this summer - the problem of aircraft noise. In particular, helicopter noise. We hope to hear tonight not only about the problem - as you experience it - but also your views on potential solutions.

This is a regional issue. So I was hoping to first get an understanding of where the folks joining us tonight are from. Please raise your hand if you are from the Town of East Hampton. The Town of Southampton. Shelter Island. The North Fork. Thank you.

Before we open up the microphone, I wanted to make a few introductory comments.

First, let me stress how complex this issue is.

Everyone wants a solution to the problem of noise - including the Town Supervisor and my colleagues on the East Hampton Town Board.

While the Town of East Hampton operates the East Hampton Airport, the Town Board does not have the authority simply to order a solution to the noise problem. We cannot order

planes and helicopters to stop flying and we cannot just close our airport. The federal government has exclusive control over how and where aircraft - including helicopters - fly. The Town has no control over aircraft in flight.

Even though air traffic is a federal responsibility, the Town does have some authority over who can use our airport and when they can arrive and depart. There is a fine line between our power as a Town and the power of the federal government. And I can assure you that we intend to exercise our Town authority within the limits of the law. Let me emphasize: the East Hampton Town Board is committed to do everything we legally can do to address this problem.

Those limits on our authority apply regardless of whether the Town ever again takes federal grant funds. Let me briefly address the question of federal grants.

As many of you know, the Town today must comply with the laws that regulate airports that have received federal grant funds. Some of those requirements will expire at the end of this year unless the Town decides to seek additional federal grants. Some other requirements will continue through 2021. We are committed to carefully considering the consequences of taking grants on our ability to control the problem of airport noise and on our ability to serve the needs of the East End communities. There is no deadline for a Town Board decision and we are not going to make a quick decision on this critical topic just for the sake of making a decision.

We need to and we will work within the law - which means working with other airports, the federal government, airport users and affected homeowners to find a workable solution.

Let me stress that this Town Board will not make promises that the Town can't keep. Therefore, everyone needs to be realistic. The Town must follow a complex web of laws, procedures and requirements before we can take any action to address the noise problem. The annoyance of airport noise affects many, many residents on both the North and South Forks. No one has to tell us that there is a noise problem - we know that. But, before we can direct a solution, we have to collect data about where and when the problem is worst, and what actions we can take within the limits of the law.

Tonight's meeting is part of that process of collecting information - so we can adopt a solution that addresses the problem without inappropriately discriminating against any particular user.

But let me be very clear: the Town Board is absolutely committed to addressing the noise problem and finding a lawful solution. We know that there are many people who demand a solution but there are also people who do not want us to succeed. This will be a tough road

but we will do whatever we legally can do, to address the intolerable situation for many neighborhoods.

It will serve no one's interests for the Town Board to act precipitously or irresponsibly. The Town Board will listen to residents, businesses and airport users and, with the help of our noise experts, lawyers and consultants, will develop a solution that best serves not only East Hampton neighborhoods but also residents of neighboring towns who are adversely affected by aircraft noise.

Second, this public meeting is part of an on-going process which started eight months ago when I began my tenure on the Town Board. We have already made progress in setting the groundwork for addressing - and solving - the problem of noise from the airport and ensuring that management of our airport is consistent with the best interests of the greater East End community.

Just by way of example, we have already taken a number of steps:

We have appointed three independent advisory committees to address airport finances, infrastructure, capital and noise issues. These committees have been working diligently and have already been providing useful data and analysis to the Town Board. I want to thank these volunteers for their untold hours of hard work which will be critically important for our ultimate decisions.

We have hired a noise expert to begin analyzing noise and complaint data so we can understand not only the nature of the problem - all of you here tonight are testament to the problem - but possible solutions.

We have adjusted airport fees to make sure that the Town has the financial ability to operate and maintain a safe airport without federal grant funds, if we decide that that is the best course of action.

And we are in the process of hiring an engineering consultant to help us address deferred maintenance to ensure that the airport remains safe.

In the coming weeks, we will outline in great detail the process we will use and our timetable for adopting appropriate rules to address the noise problem.

When you came in this evening you should have been handed a register for you to provide your name, town, neighborhood and basic information about the issues for which you are most concerned. Please fill out this sheet so it can become part of the legal record.

Tonight's meeting will be broadcast live on government access television in the Towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Shelter Island, and Southold. The Town Board would like to thank Joan Gilroy and her team at Cablevision for making this possible. We will also retain a video in Town files for reference as the Town Board considers how best to address this problem.

Finally, I request that everyone observe basic rules of civility. I know that emotions run high whenever we talk about noise issues but it won't help anyone to have cheering, jeering and interruptions. We are here to listen so please be respectful and let us hear the speakers.

Thank you.

III. Concerns of East End Residents Impacted by Fixed Wing and Helicopter Noise

Supervisor Cantwell gave a brief introduction to the meeting. Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez read an opening statement on the reasoning for the meeting. She asked for a show of hands from the attendees as to the area in which they live. She states that the control of aircraft is with the FAA. We only can limit the time and type of aircraft. She spoke about Federal Grants and the requirements that come along with taking them. Tonight's meeting is for collecting information. The board is definitely looking for an answer to the noise. It was noted that over 385 people are in attendance and to date 18,404 calls for complaints have been logged into the airport system.

Elected Officials:

Fred Thiele, State Assemblyman says he has attended several meetings on this subject. We have spent millions to protect our community character. We need to make sure our quality of life is protected. The airport has brought revenue into the area but now has grown so much that it has become a problem. Thank you for this regional meeting. This process and record is very important.

Legislator Krupski, says they also had this same type of meeting in Peconic last week. The north fork gets the brunt of the noise. Thank you for taking control of the airport.

Supervisor Scott Russell, thank you for hearing the problems. He read a portion of a resolution passed last night by the Southold Town Board. In part it asked East Hampton not to accept anymore FAA monies.

Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo is the Assemblyman for the north fork. He lives in New Suffolk and at 6 every Monday morning he is also awoken by the noise of the helicopters heading back to NYC. He appreciates the Town having this meeting.

Supervisor James Dougherty, Shelter Island came with two of his board members and they also passed a resolution asking the town not to renew with the FAA come December 31st. He also spoke about the routes that the aircraft take. They are very important. They definitely are not taking the water route. They have ban landings and takeoffs on Shelter Island. They gave up luxury for peace and quiet.

Anna Throne-Holst, Southampton Town Supervisor thanked the board for their help and having this meeting. It is wonderful that all the towns have been able to join together on this issue. They too passed a resolution asking EH not to accept any more FAA money. We have a responsibility to govern in a way that reflects our times. Our economy is based on our quality of life. We need to work together on this matter to make it work. We have all learned that the voluntary way did not work.

Jeff Sander, North Haven Mayor also thanked this Town Board for all their help. No other boards were willing to take on the issue. You need to limit the number of flights. They too are passing a resolution. The entire region needs to ban together.

Legislator Jay Schneiderman, the areas he represents are all the areas that are affected. This has been going on for many years and getting worse each year.

Residents:

Patricia Hope, EH thanked the Town Board for having the meeting. Asking people to pick up the phone 10 to 15 times to make complaints and speak to a robot is crazy. You need to have Congressman Bishop and Chuck Schumer listen to their constituents. Take a good look at the helicopters maybe they could land in Montauk.

Kathi Goldman, EH lives in the Northwest area and has been fighting this issue for years with no avail. The route needs to be changed; the times of the flights need to be restricted.

Bob Malafronte, Sag Harbor thanked board for meeting. They have had a big problem for the last three years. None of the helicopters are on the graphs that he is shown. He believes that 40% of the inbound are not recorded. I am tired of complaining. He spoke about the recordings at the airport. We have a serious problem going on at the airport even with the help. Please figure it out equitable for all the towns.

Joseph Messing, Shelter Island moved their 26 years ago. Over the last 2 years it has become very bad. They are being awakened at 1 and 2 in the morning. It is no longer a weekend problem. It is about 6 days a week. What is happening is off the record and flight patterns are not being followed.

Jim Mathews, EH representing the Northwest Alliance, this area is a Nature Preserve and is being greatly affected. He spoke about the affects of noise on animals. As the flights increase the plover have decreased and this year there was zero. It also affects humans. He gave some particulars.

Jim Colligan, SI he just went to a meeting where no one listened. Thanks to this board for listening and caring. Reduce the number of flights coming in and out of the airport. Never underestimate your opponents is what they say and the pilots have. They moved to Shelter Island for the peace and quiet. There has been a 40% increase in air traffic.

Leni Salz, EH thanked board for trying to get issue under control. She lives near the Village. There have been 19 to 20 flights in a two hour period. She spoke about pilot error. Why not charge members of the airport like golf clubs do. We want peace, quiet and East Hampton back.

Ken Pysffer, SI has been working on this problem for 3 years and this is the first board that was willing to listen to him. All the trouble is helicopters. He doesn't know what the answer is but the helicopter traffic needs to be limited.

Gary Giscombe, Sag Harbor pleased that the board is taking action. He has been in the SH Hills area for 35 years. The vibration in the area is horrible. Seaplanes land in the waters nearby. Reject FAA money and take control.

Julie Brumeister, BHCAC lives on Ocean Road in Bridgehampton and the helicopters and jets are the problems. The often have to stop talking as they go by. Who is going to police the situation?

Henry Rossi, SH says his concern is the safety issue. No one ever talks about that. There is more traffic than the airport can handle. Please consider safety.

Patricia Currie, SH everyone here has had enough of the noise and pollution components. She wants to address the pilots that are making our lives hell. Your financial gain is

affecting us so please fly away. This is not an economic value for us. Thank you to the board for this meeting and trying to help the issue.

Steven Levine, SH a letter was read by Patricia Currie. He says that areas west are affected the most. The pain is beyond imagination. He spoke about the Town previously taking FAA monies. The board can correct the mistakes of the past. Restrict the number of flights and type of planes. We have the right to peace and quiet.

Frank Dalene, EH started taking noise levels with a meter in 2007. From 2008 to 2009 he logged about 400 complaints. He formed Quiet Flights Coalition. He thanks this board for all their work in the last 8 months. Please take December very seriously. He spoke about a press release in 2009 from Senator Schumer and Congressman Bishop. That was 5 years ago. Please stop the torture.

Susan McGraw Kebet, EH thank you to all our board members and the other towns. She has lived here for 40 years. She spoke about how the airport noise has stolen life from her. The opportunists just don't care. We are being urbanized from the air. They want to arrive here fast to enjoy their weekend homes. The economy will not be destroyed. We will turn into a Coney Island. The airport should be for recreational flights. Give us back our peace and quiet.

David Lich Penster, SI spoke about the routes that the helicopters are taking over Shelter Island. He is a clinical analyst and he agrees with the effect of noise on animals and humans. This is a health issue also.

Peter Wolf, EH appointed member of the town's noise committee and is a professional planner and an author of several books. He spoke about some of the plans that he was involved in over the years. We must emphasize on safety and noise issues. The only projects that should be taken on at the airport are ones that don't add traffic. A time restriction should be put in place. Next will be to close the airport. He suggests a few solutions; ban helicopters except for emergencies; operate the airport from 9 to 5; limit number of flights to 4 per hour; make every aircraft meet noise levels.

Ken Lipper, EH spoke about the direct flight patterns and the noise associated. His group sent out a questionnaire and they got back about 400 responses. They all agree that the board should not accept FAA money after December 31st. Please protect the public.

Senator LaValle, states that everyone is very united in this matter. He spoke about a letter signed in October of 2012 by all local officials asking for the southern route as the mandatory route. Much of this is just poor behavior. He lives in Port Jefferson and the problem exists there also. This is an economic issue for the east end and he supports the board. He is here to listen.

Barry Raebeck, EH lives in Wainscott for 57 years. Thank you to the board for having this meeting. His 92 year old father was one of the first to start the environmental pushes in the area. Every time the developers were wrong. The natural unspoiled beauty of our habitat is why people want to live here. We are being robbed of our piece and beauty of our area.

Tom Macniven, EH resident of Wainscott shared a comment from a friend of his from the Sagaponack Sag Harbor area. He read a complaint she placed last year and the response she got from the Airport staff. Shut it up or shut it down.

Andy Bartle, EH says he smells the jet fumes and can't hear themselves talk. They come all hours of the night.

Ellen Cooper, EH she lives within the approach zone. Sometimes the seaplane is at tree top level at 2:45 am. We don't need this type of nonsense. She is going to join the parade that is getting out. This is important. 40 years ago she served on an airport committee and believes the records were lost or destroyed. Fight the FAA and don't let them tell us what to do. Other airports have ban helicopters.

James Ding, Noyac says he has spoken about these issues before. He has listened to the noise for too long. He thinks that the Supervisor and board can solve the problems. Go after the seaplanes and the cowboy pilots that do whatever they want. Close the airport and move operations to Montauk. Make our lives noise free and still help the few that want to fly. We don't want to have to keep repeating ourselves. Be the hero not the nero.

Tom Maguire, Cutchogue says he quit making the phone calls. Two Friday's ago he made 42 calls. Every time he picks up the phone he gets angry. Many of his neighbors feel the same way.

Joan Osborne, EH says they do get planes over the Village that fly very low. Why would anyone else make money off the airport?

Gene Polito, Noyac secretary of the homeowners association. He spoke about noise in his area. It is impossible to call in every complaint. He has figured out how to stop the people who come over from talking, take them outside. He has been saying the same thing over and over again for years. Please do something about this situation. These pilots are like party crashers and then they want to sue us. Ban helicopters and keep this area for recreational use only.

Amy Greenberg, Mattituck the problem is terrible on the North Fork. She has to wear earphones to go outside. Fly over the water and solve the problem. Save money and do your noise study at her house. Don't give the problem to someone else. They are going to form some type of protest for next summer is something isn't done.

Patricia Wadzinski, EH supports all her friends and neighbors and this is a critical problem. Please come to a simple conclusion. Some are profiting at the expense of others. Control what comes in and out.

Sheryl Gold, EH thank you for this opportunity tonight. Here to support you in your decisions. She believes that Senator LaValle is totally wrong. The southern route does not work they are not following the route. This is far more than a nuisance, it is also about safety.

Barry Holden, Noyac added a couple of comments that other did not. He thinks we are up against a few groups that no one is thinking about. You have entities like UBER that are making a big killing on these flights. What to do next, the planning should start now and maybe we can cut them off at the pass.

Margaret Skabry, Peconic attended a town meeting her way and it was nice to see people from here attend that. She stopped making calls and going outside. She showed a picture of a helicopter that was just over the top of the tree tops at her home. You can make something happen, you need to do it for us. Why do you cater to them? Is their money so important? Ban them all. Be the heroes.

Janiculio Rosso, Jamesport thank you for inviting us. She use to live in Noyac. The helicopters fly right over the house. Some day one of them will come down in someone's house. The people who come out here by helicopter are not spending money here. Do not take any more money from the FAA.

Teresa McCaski, Mattituck lives by the inlet. She is here to voice her frustration. No matter what she does or where she goes she cannot escape the noise. There are too many flights over the area. They should not be able to transition over the north shore to get to the south shore. They should have to fly at 3000 ft. People do need to continue to call in their complaints. Each complaint should be looked at by airport, board and FAA. No flights should be allowed over schools. They should fly over least populated areas. Fix the problems.

John Skabry, Peconic/Southold says that this is the most beautiful place and he doesn't know how the town lost the control. A study was done years ago to put an airport in Southold. It was thrown out in a matter of months. This is a federal problem. You have the fox watching the chicken coop. Why can't the EPS control noise?

Madelene Meehan, EH Village thanked board for the meeting. When she wrote letters about the situation she got hate mail. Close the airport and don't take FAA money. Hopefully now someone will listen.

Charlot Taylor, EH she has lived by the airport since a child. She now feels like she lives in Vietnam. The noise is defining. Only emergency helicopters should be allowed. Her aunt started the airport many years ago. It was just for recreation and pretty soon prop planes will be afraid to fly here. Don't take FAA money anymore and take back the airport. Restrict the flights and ban helicopters. This is a battle worth fighting for.

Linda James, EH thank you for being able to address such a wonderful town board. She lives on a beautiful pond in East Hampton. All of this requires an eco system that is being challenged. She sees problems happening right in her area.

Richard Prins, EH here to urge the board to enforce its noise ordinance. Make it so they will get quite equipment and fly higher. Work with the LIRR to get luxury cars to come out on an express route.

Martha respects all that she has heard tonight. She lives in Georgica Estates and they are being assaulted by jets, seaplanes and helicopters. We need to dramatically reduce the number of flights and the size of the planes and the noise they make. The airport does serve Southampton as well as East Hampton. Make the appropriate changes. Make it a recreational airport.

Elaine Noyac Civic Council spoke about information that is available at the airport. She is told that there is no data on certain helicopters. How can we after 911 not have track of all flights. Her group also passed a resolution urging the board not to take any more FAA money.

Tony Lambert from Bridgehampton for 35 years. The noise level is bad but does he care, no. The helicopters should be moved to Westhampton Airport. How can you make East Hampton a little bit better? He believes the board will take money in December.

Mike Bersin said he thought the traffic was only over his house. He spoke about a trip he took into the city by helicopter. They had to land in Wall Street because NYC doesn't allow helicopters to land in residential districts. My mother gave me a voluntary curfew. How do you think that worked? Something is going to happen with the way some of them fly. Restrict it or close it.

Ken Dorph, Sag Harbor says that he moved from Springs to Sag Harbor 20 years ago and lives by the park. The noise is getting worse every year. His son plays ball at the park and the helicopter traffic is one after another. We need a transportation plan. Do not take any more FAA money. Get rid of commercial aspect at airport. Ban helicopters.

Kathy Cunningham wanted to thank the board for this meeting. The problem has been here for so many years. People must make the complaints.


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Amy Greenberg, Mattituck the problem is terrible on the North Fork. She has to wear earphones to go outside. Fly over the water and solve the problem. Save money and do your noise study at her house. Don't give the problem to someone else. They are going to form some type of protest for next summer is something isn't done.

Patricia Wadzinski, EH supports all her friends and neighbors and this is a critical problem. Please come to a simple conclusion. Some are profiting at the expense of others. Control what comes in and out.

Sheryl Gold, EH thank you for this opportunity tonight. Here to support you in your decisions. She believes that Senator LaValle is totally wrong. The southern route does not work they are not following the route. This is far more than a nuisance, it is also about safety.

Barry Holden, Noyac added a couple of comments that other did not. He thinks we are up against a few groups that no one is thinking about. You have entities like UBER that are making a big killing on these flights. What to do next, the planning should start now and maybe we can cut them off at the pass.

Margaret Skabry, Peconic attended a town meeting her way and it was nice to see people from here attend that. She stopped making calls and going outside. She showed a picture of a helicopter that was just over the top of the tree tops at her home. You can make something happen, you need to do it for us. Why do you cater to them? Is their money so important? Ban them all. Be the heroes.

Janiculio Rosso, Jamesport thank you for inviting us. She use to live in Noyac. The helicopters fly right over the house. Some day one of them will come down in someone's house. The people who come out here by helicopter are not spending money here. Do not take any more money from the FAA.

Teresa McCaski, Mattituck lives by the inlet. She is here to voice her frustration. No matter what she does or where she goes she cannot escape the noise. There are too many flights over the area. They should not be able to transition over the north shore to get to the south shore. They should have to fly at 3000 ft. People do need to continue to call in their complaints. Each complaint should be looked at by airport, board and FAA. No flights should be allowed over schools. They should fly over least populated areas. Fix the problems.

John Skabry, Peconic/Southold says that this is the most beautiful place and he doesn't know how the town lost the control. A study was done years ago to put an airport in Southold. It was thrown out in a matter of months. This is a federal problem. You have the fox watching the chicken coop. Why can't the EPS control noise?

Madelene Meehan, EH Village thanked board for the meeting. When she wrote letters about the situation she got hate mail. Close the airport and don't take FAA money. Hopefully now someone will listen.

Charlot Taylor, EH she has lived by the airport since a child. She now feels like she lives in Vietnam. The noise is defining. Only emergency helicopters should be allowed. Her aunt started the airport many years ago. It was just for recreation and pretty soon prop planes will be afraid to fly here. Don't take FAA money anymore and take back the airport. Restrict the flights and ban helicopters. This is a battle worth fighting for.

Linda James, EH thank you for being able to address such a wonderful town board. She lives on a beautiful pond in East Hampton. All of this requires an eco system that is being challenged. She sees problems happening right in her area.

Richard Prins, EH here to urge the board to enforce its noise ordinance. Make it so they will get quite equipment and fly higher. Work with the LIRR to get luxury cars to come out on an express route.

Martha respects all that she has heard tonight. She lives in Georgica Estates and they are being assaulted by jets, seaplanes and helicopters. We need to dramatically reduce the number of flights and the size of the planes and the noise they make. The airport does serve Southampton as well as East Hampton. Make the appropriate changes. Make it a recreational airport.

Elaine Noyac Civic Council spoke about information that is available at the airport. She is told that there is no data on certain helicopters. How can we after 911 not have track of all flights. Her group also passed a resolution urging the board not to take any more FAA money.

Tony Lambert from Bridgehampton for 35 years. The noise level is bad but does he care, no. The helicopters should be moved to Westhampton Airport. How can you make East Hampton a little bit better? He believes the board will take money in December.

Mike Bersin said he thought the traffic was only over his house. He spoke about a trip he took into the city by helicopter. They had to land in Wall Street because NYC doesn't allow helicopters to land in residential districts. My mother gave me a voluntary curfew. How do you think that worked? Something is going to happen with the way some of them fly. Restrict it or close it.

Ken Dorph, Sag Harbor says that he moved from Springs to Sag Harbor 20 years ago and lives by the park. The noise is getting worse every year. His son plays ball at the park and the helicopter traffic is one after another. We need a transportation plan. Do not take any more FAA money. Get rid of commercial aspect at airport. Ban helicopters.

Kathy Cunningham wanted to thank the board for this meeting. The problem has been here for so many years. People must make the complaints.

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