



LARRY CANTWELL
Supervisor

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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September 8, 2014

Leonard D. Kirsch, Esq.
McBreen & Kopko
500 North Broadway Suite 129
Jericho, NY 11753

Re: Friends of East Hampton Airport, Inc.

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

I wanted to thank you and your colleagues for taking the time to meet with us last Thursday regarding the East Hampton Airport. We appreciate your taking the time to educate us on your position on a series of airport-related issues.

Let me make it clear that this Town Board is committed to – and in fact has begun – an inclusive and transparent process to solicit and consider views of *all* affected stakeholders. As we explained at the meeting, we hope within the next few weeks (tentatively planned for September 16) we will offer for Town Board approval a schedule of the process going forward. We urge you to participate in that process to ensure that the Town Board is fully informed of your position on key Airport issues.

I appreciate your agreement on the importance of not rushing or prejudicing our process. Until that process has been completed, of course, it would be inappropriate for the Town Board to express views on the many questions you raised – issues such as whether the Town will accept additional FAA grants and whether the Town will impose restrictions on operations at the Airport.

I want to address in particular the principal issue that we discussed – your perception that there are safety issues at the Airport. We appreciate your offer to provide us with more detailed data on your specific safety concerns. As we discussed, the Town is committed to operate the Airport safely and to address issues which are brought to our attention. I am sure you appreciate that, like any local government, we have to prioritize capital and operational spending. To that end, we certainly welcome your thoughts on prioritizing expenditures which are set forth in the Airport Capital Improvement Plan. In addition, in response to your request, we will keep you and all stakeholders up-to-date on the timeline, budget and contractor selection to address maintenance and capital programs at the Airport.

After our meeting, we discussed at length your proposal that we jointly seek FAA direction on the effect of the 2005 Settlement Agreement on enforcement of the Town's grant obligations after December 31. We believe that it would be helpful to have somewhat more detail about the specific question you think we should ask, the process you recommend we use for providing our views to the FAA, and a timetable for such a joint request.

On a related point, you asked that the Town make a commitment regarding our intentions with respect to Town actions after December 31, 2014. We respect your request that you be given time to confer with your client or clients before giving us a more definite request and look forward to specificity as to what commitment you are seeking from the Town.

In closing, let me reiterate our agreement with your comments about the importance of continuing a dialogue which, of course, is far more productive outside the antagonism of litigation. We welcome the opportunity for further discussions but I hope you appreciate that any litigation would seriously limit our ability to talk openly and frankly about possible solutions to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Cantwell", written over a white background.

Larry Cantwell
Supervisor, Town of East Hampton

cc: Jeff Smith, Eastern Region Helicopter Council