



East Hampton Town Board

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Carole Brennan

Thursday, March 12, 2015

4:30 PM

L T V

I. MEETING POSTPONED FROM THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH

II. Call to Order

4:30 PM Meeting called to order on March 12, 2015 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 | Present | |
| 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 | |

III. Public Hearings

1. Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Local Law Amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code Regulating Nighttime Operation of Aircraft at East Hampton Airport

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The Town Board of the Town of East Hampton held a public hearing at LTV, Industrial Road, Wainscott, New York, on Thursday, March 12, 2015 beginning at 4:30 p.m. and adjourning at 8:12 p.m.

Town Clerk Carole A. Brennan read the Four Notices of Public Hearing as posted and published as required by law.

The following persons spoke to the hearings:

Councilwoman Jodi Giglio from Riverhead Town supports the efforts.

Councilwoman Christine Scalera from Southampton Town urges relieve for the residents but do not want to push the problem to other parts of the Town. Please do the diversion study first.

Bob Ghosio, Southold Town Councilperson appreciates what the town is going through and the effort you are making to help all.

Supervisor Dougherty, Supervisor of Shelter Island thanked the board for all their hard work and they are very grateful to the town for all they are doing to make these restrictions happen. Shelter Island ban helicopter landings in their town many years ago.

Diane Skilbred Deputy, Mayor of North Haven respectively request the town pass all three laws.

Scott Russell, Supervisor Southold Town says stay the course and thanks the board for this proposal.

Legislator Al Krupski represents the area known as the flight path. Everyone appreciates your help.

Sandra Schroeder, Deputy Mayor of Sag Harbor thanks board for what they are doing. Sag Harbor Board supports the actions.

Mitchell Moss spoke on the revenues at the Airport. East Hampton is a national destination. This will affect the number of people coming here. This will affect all the employed person of East Hampton.

Don Matheson read a letter from the Wainscott CAC commending the board for their actions, they took a vote and 10 members were for, one abstained, and one was opposed. As an individual resident he is against closing the airport and believes that there needs to be a peaceful coexistence between the pilots and the residents. The airport was originally a recreational airport and now is bordering on a commercial airport.

Justin Ricks member of the youth of aviation. This will push the aircraft to Montauk. There will be no voluntary routes or control. He has been around aircraft noise all his life and he understands but there has to be a more suitable solution.

Patricia Hope says the board has the interest of the people in their hearts. They have listened to many arguments and threats and asks them to hold fast.

Frank Dalene is a pilot and says noise abatement is very expensive and fails all the time. Thanked board for their steps to further airport regulations. Stay the course.

Susan McGraw Keber thanked the town board for their work on this issue. She spoke about issues spoken about by the FBO's. Please relieve of from this nuisance and abuse.

Patricia Currie spoke about the actual amount of money the airport brings into this community. Helicopters have ruined our quality of life. People will not stop coming because they cannot come by helicopter. Please pass the restrictions.

David Gruber says that the airport can support itself without FAA funds. Without that monies landing fees will rise but not by an amount that is unreasonable. Half the passengers are destined for Southampton. People will come here with or without helicopters. You have good proposals please adopt them.

Gene Polito says that aviation is damaging to our environment. He used to be an airplane mechanic and then went on to be a musician. He couldn't play his music just anywhere. People won't stop coming here because they cannot come by helicopter. Enact the legislation.

Andrew Sabin says he loves this town. He located here because of the airport. He agrees that the noise of some of the aircraft is a problem. We are now headed down a dangerous path. There will be law suits. We need a better idea. The FAA money can be taken and helicopters still ban. He believes that Kathee should recuse herself since she was David Gruber's treasurer when he ran for Supervisor.

Vincent Covello, letter read by Kathy Cunningham which thanked the board for all they are doing and for listening to the people.

Bruno Schreck spoke about the actual amount of people that have been placing complaints. Showed many illustrations of different issues.

Irving Paler spoke about an honest study, he named the people who made many repeat calls about the noise. Many of these people have made over 500 calls.

Gene Oshrin spoke about lawsuits that have been in courts on this matter. He questions the town board's noise study. Also he says that the FAA will still have control of the airport even if the town does not take money. Opposed to the restrictions.

Eugene Haller is a pilot but no longer flying out of East Hampton. He is still a resident and is concerned about his taxes going up. The pilots and users will not be able to support the cost of the airport. He thinks you still will need to accept money. If the helicopters are making the noise why are you restricting the other aircraft users?

Elliot Meisel is also a pilot but his voice is louder than his airplane. He believes in compromise. He spoke about laws on the grant assurances. No one denies that there is noise but you are going about it in the wrong way.

Cindy Herbst, Sound Aircraft Services, they have been in business for 25 years. 85% of their business is during the summer months. She spoke about the BFAC's report. The airport has been in operation for 80 years. The Cantwell administration is looking to destroy 80 years.

Ryan Pilla says that anyone that bought land by the airport knew about the noise in the area, now they want it changed. He is a pilot and the town needs to make the airport safe and without FAA monies they will not be able to do that. He is against these radical restrictions. Look at the real facts and figures.

Maureen Quigley a worker for Sound Aircraft spoke about the summer season for the company and the airport. The board is not looking at the financial impacts on the area.

Michael Norbeck another worker for Sound says that these restrictions will hurt the residents of East Hampton. He spoke about airport easements that are on many properties surrounding the airport. Asked to have persons within these easements removed from committees.

Jonathan Sabin is a pilot and wonders why the work has not been done on the master plan. The airport is not being properly maintained. He is for reasonable policies that are for noise at the airport. Negotiate with the users of the airport. This is going to end up in court. For time restrictions but not the ban on helicopters.

Jeff Smith head of helicopters group states that his drive is to find a common grounds for all. The restrictions will affect all of East Hampton. The last few months have become a smear campaign on the airport. The noise studies are totally flawed and incorrect. There have been over 2000 calls from one household. He is against the regulations.

Rod Davidson committee member, hanger owner, airport user, etc., says that the restrictions are a death sentence for the Town. The board is looking to appease a few people. We will be burdened by not taking FAA monies. The Town Board has chosen to take their own path and it will hurt the residents. The airport is the gateway to the Hamptons.

Evan Catarelli says that much of the data is flawed. Two homes made thousands of calls. He spoke about the monies that have been accepted in the past and the monies it will cost in the future. He is an employee of Sound and would like to remain there but the people will go elsewhere.

Bonnie Krupinski here on behalf of her husband Ben Krupinski and herself. She says that her dad flew out of the airport for many years. They are against the restrictions. You have a moral obligation to the residents and the fiducial responsibilities to same. She spoke about the people that built by the airport and the people that use the airport. These restrictions will hurt many in the community. How can the airport become self sustaining with these restrictions?

Barry Raeback spoke about the uses of the airport. He wonders why the board is responding to the few instead of the many. He doesn't see why we need the airport. Ban helicopters, seaplanes and late flights.

Councilwoman Bridget Fleming from Southampton thanked the board for their work on this issue. She says that there are many people in the community that are affected even though the numbers may not say that. They are also concerned with the impacts on their community.

Tina Piette says the EH Board members are elected for the residents of East Hampton and that there are more complaints from other areas that you are not responsible for. She is opposed to a tax increase for capital improvements and lawsuits at the airport.

Barry Holden lives in Sag Harbor and says that the flights started in 2012. He is one that makes many calls to complain. He thanked the board for tackling these problems. Opponents are in it for their own reasons.

Pat Trunzo III says that this is the first board in 30 years that has tried to tackle this issue. Thanked Kathee for undertaking the matter. Complaints are legitimate. He spoke about a resent helicopter lawsuit. Many people are affected by the noise but do not call in complaints. Move forward.

Kathy Cunningham thanked the board for proposing these restrictions. Urge the board to pass the resolutions as proposed.

Tom MacNiven let's pass the proposed legislation. We are counting on you please move forward with the proposals.

Michael Stutt, read by Maureen Quigley, says that change in the flight path was a major reason for the problems. You have not gotten the financial impact study you said you would get. You will move the problem elsewhere.

Bob Malafronte gave credit to many committee members. He spoke to how much money the helicopter owners but back into the community. All they pay for is fuel and the only ones making money is the FBO.

Southampton Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst says this affects many residents of different communities and should not be made to pit it against one another. They have two airports within her township and has many concerns. How do the restrictions affect other areas. She believes they do need to work with the FAA because her area is still going to be in trouble.

Joyce Lieberman Georgica Estates Community says they are located in the direct path of the flights. 30 years ago it was just recreational aircraft and only a few flights. Their community supports the legislation.

Elena Loreto President of the Noyac Civil Council and says that they have been involved with this issue for decades. They support the efforts and urge the board to move forward.

Peter M. Wolf says that compromise is the key here. These four proposed law are compromise. Noise restrictions should include seaplanes. People will work around the restrictions to make it work.

John Kirrane says this board has been given a burden that has taken a lot of time and thought. People come here and live here because it is so beautiful. He respects both sides. Have the courage to stay the cost. The helicopters have had plenty of opportunities to change their flights and haven't. Do the right thing.

Paul for Preston Phillips says return the airport to its original use. Thank you for all your help. He spoke about why the people call the complaint line.

Patricia Wadzinski read by another woman spoke about business always complaining on their loss. Noisy helicopters are the big problem.

Marie Dominici from the north fork supports the board's proposals. She is concerned with the environmental quality and impact of the helicopters flying over them.

Janice Lorusso says she is greatly affected by the helicopters passing over her home. They should have to go around Plum Island. The FBO's may be hurt but that is the way of life, many mom and pops have been put out of business by bigger businesses.

Teresa McCaskie thanked the board for their work and asked the board to pass the resolutions. She would like the board to add seaplanes. They do make just as much noise. She spoke about the restrictions they are under.

Margaret Turner EH Business Alliance says they understand the concerns for homeowners but are also concerned for the hanger owners. They are also concerned with the financial repercussions. They are worried about the effects on the community.

Rudy Ratsep this issue does not have an easy answer. A blanket approach will not work. This will hurt all pilots that are trying to do right.

Charles Ehren says he has been involved in airport issue for many years. He urges the board to adopt the resolutions. He does not feel that there will be a loss of economics from helicopters not being allowed to use the airport. If they can't come by helicopter they will find another way to get here.

Laurenzo Heit thanked the board for their work on the issue. The people have spoken and you have listened. They counted 38 helicopters in a 90 minute span flying over their home.

T. James Matthews representing the Northwest Alliance says that this has been a huge problem that may have already been resolved. Cars need mufflers and something should be done to combustion engines. All you are doing is enforcing that type of law.

John Shea pilot says that the aviation community understands that the helicopters are affecting the community but they do not believe it should be hurting the regular planes. We also do not ban loud boats in the bay. You may be violating the leases you have with hanger owners. Montauk maybe inundated with helicopters. He does not agree with the laws.

Jeremy Samuelson says that we do have a real noise problem but has concerns with the impact the restrictions will have on Montauk. They are happy for the diversion study. He thinks it should have been ready for tonight's meeting. He noted that the three officials for Southampton Town also share the same concerns.

Richard Kahn a resident of Montauk. In 2014 385 helicopters landing in Montauk that was a large increase over 2013. East Hampton had over 4000. That will probably transfer to Montauk and that is a great concern. Phase in slowly. Don't do all the laws at once. Take a hard look before you act.

Bill Akin says the board does have a big problem but the issue on what is going to happen to Montauk has been ignored. Because of the difference in drive times Montauk airport is going to be the choice.

Tom Knobel states that the diverted aircraft will hurt other areas and the financial impacts will be great. This is anti-airport legislation. East Hampton benefits from this airport. North Shore residents will not have to pay for sustaining the airport. Safety requires funding. These laws are creating problems not solving them.

Jeffrey Gilley National Business Association says most airports do not discriminate. They are opposed to the regulations as written. The East Hampton Airport is part of the National System. They feel the proposals will end in law suits.

Keith Vitolo showed a picture of his helicopter and says it is very quiet. A lawnmower makes more noise than him. The weight of the helicopter is less than most cars. He is doing everything to make his flights quite. He is being discriminated against because he owns a "helicopter".

Jim Colligan from Shelter Island says that the truth usually lies in between. There was a large increase in helicopters and noise last year. This is a regional issue. The people are fed up. The burden needs to be put on the helicopter community.

Bob Deluca Group for the East End offers their support for the proposals. They are interested in the impact study. Many people have raised legitimate concerns and they must be addressed.

Doug Cunningham says that his business will be effected by this. He will find a way around it. Please consider the broader picture. He is sensitive to the noise. These restrictions will shut the airport down. Why can't they rotate the routes being used to reduce the impact on each neighborhood?

Reg Cornelia New York State has too many restrictions. You do by passing this risk the closing of the airport. This is a technological problem. Helicopters should and could be made quieter.

Dan Voorhees applauds the board's efforts. Living in the flight pattern effects the value of people's property. The community is going to suffer. Please go ahead with the legislation.

Ann Mittendorf says the board is doing the right thing. She had over 100 flights going over her home each day starting in 2013. The fact that the board is doing something is wonderful.

John Dunning spoke about ANCA which is a Federal Act, which makes these rules not be able to go into effect.

Mark M. said he did submit written comment. He went out to see the Hoover Dam and found out it was built with WTA funds, as was the airport. Hope we are not being over confident.

There being no further public comment, a motion was made to leave the hearing open for written comments until March 20, 2015.

2. Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Local Law Amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code Regulating Nighttime and Early Morning Operation of Noisy Aircraft at East Hampton Airport

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

SEE HEARING NUMBER ONE

3. Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Local Law Amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code Regulating Operation of Helicopters at East Hampton Airport

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

SEE HEARING NUMBER ONE

4. Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Local Law Amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code Regulating Operation of Noisy Aircraft at East Hampton Airport

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

SEE HEARING NUMBER ONE