



Dear Friend,

Recently, we informed you of the Town's intention to effectively close the East Hampton Airport. While the Town has been telling callers that this is not their intention, the facts speak for themselves.

Attached is a Fact Sheet. We will update these facts as they develop.

To help counter this troubling development, we have formed a new not-for-profit coalition of aviation organizations, safety experts, community members and local businesses that support the Airport and are willing to fight to keep the Airport open to all of the flying public. The "Friends of the East Hampton Airport" have already hired top legal, public relations and government affairs experts to help in this effort but we need your financial and organizational support to give us the ability to win this important fight.

We know some of you have previously donated time and funds to other pro-airport organizations and you want to understand why we also need your help. **The reality is simple: time is up. Opponents of the Airport are moving quickly and decisively. We have kicked the can down the road as far as we can. Without your help the Airport will be closed to the flying public.**

To donate to the cause please go to <http://www.savehto.org> where you will find all the information about the Airport, the Town and ways to support the Friends of the East Hampton Airport. You will also find our contact information if you have questions or comments.

As our most powerful advocates, your support is needed to help persuade the community and elected officials that the Airport is critical to East Hampton and the surrounding communities. Please contact us at info@savehto.org with any questions.



East Hampton Airport Facts

These are some important facts to consider:

1. **Limited Access and Operations:** The Town leadership plans to severely limit the airport's hours of operation and the types of aircraft permitted to land. This is clearly stated in the approved Town's 2014 budget plan. If unchallenged, this will take effect as soon as 2015. Here is the link to the plan: <http://www.savehto.org/files/91526756.pdf>
2. **Playing Politics Over Safety:** The Town has refused to accept any Federal funds to maintain the airport. Why, because if they accept federal funds, they will be required to keep the Airport open to all aircraft for another 20 years. This is the most glaring demonstration of the Town's intentions. Federal funding would reduce the eventual tax burden on residents. Who turns down free money unless there is an ulterior motive? The Town prefers to allow the Airport to fall into disrepair. Some examples:
 - **Closed Runways:** Runway 4-22 has been closed for more than five years due to disrepair by the Town. The Federal government would pay 90% of the cost to repair the runway – but Town leaders refuse to accept these funds. If this continues, opponents hope that eventually the Airport will be closed due to safety issues. As an example, runway 4-22 was closed due to the Town's failure to repair or accept funds to repair the runway. It remains closed to this day.
 - **Safety and Security Fence:** The prior Town Board unanimously approved the creation of a perimeter fence to help keep deer and vehicular traffic off the ramps and runways. However, the budget for the fence's creation has been continuously rejected and the Town refuses to accept federal funds to build this fence. In the past 3 years there have been at least 4 incidents of aircraft striking deer. This obviously represents a huge safety concern and an expensive ordeal when an aircraft is damaged. Runway incursions are also of great concern. Less than one month ago, a truck rode up and down the runway after making a wrong turn through a electronic gate that had been broken for over a year. This represents a huge safety concern.



- **Refusal to Remove Flight Obstructions:** The FAA has instructed the Town to cut down trees on Airport property to ensure a safe approach. The Town refuses to do so. This prevents instrument approaches. What is next?

3. **Deplete the Airport's Funds:** By introducing exorbitant fuel flowage fees, including two \$.15 per-gallon fuel taxes this year and next, the Town is pretending that a bump in revenue will demonstrate that the Airport can survive without federal funding, but the actual effect of these moves will eventually bankrupt the Airport.

If you ask Town leadership, they will tell you that hundreds of thousands of dollars are being invested in the Airport, but the reality is these funds are being wasted while the Town moves toward the eventual closure of the Airport.

If you ask the Town, they will tell you they have no intention of closing the Airport. Then why won't they take federal funds? Why not take federal funds? They cost NOTHING and resulting work will make the airport safer for everyone!

If you ask the Town, they will tell you that any actions they take are to deal with noise issues. This is why Airport opposition groups have purchased ads in local papers telling people to call and complain. They are doing this because they are concerned that **noise complaints have fallen each year for the past three years** and this runs counter to their campaign and excuses. They also fail to tell you that many complaints are from the same people, who call over and over again in an effort to increase the number of complaints.

If you ask the Town, they will tell you that they have no intention of closing the Airport. But all of their actions suggest otherwise. We know better. If they succeed, it's not just the aviation community that will suffer. It's also the local business community that will lose more than the \$49 million the Airport generates in annual economic revenue. The reality is with no Airport; fewer people will buy homes, visit and spend money in the Hamptons. Eventually real estate values will decrease, restaurants will suffer and costs for everyone else will increase.

We encourage everyone to get involved and become a part of the solution to help save the East Hampton Airport.

Sincerely,

Friends of the East Hampton Airport