



Informational Newsletter

October 3, 2014

Dear Airport User:

On Friday, September 12, there was a terrifying incident at the East Hampton Airport. As a jet carrying a passenger landed it suddenly struck a deer that had walked onto the runway. The deer was killed instantly and the plane was severely damaged. Miraculously, no one on the plane was injured. This incident, however, should be a major concern for everyone. It is not the first time this has happened at the airport. In fact, there have been more than a half-dozen similar incidents in the past few years.

Despite this obvious risk to property, animal populations, and potentially human life, the Town of East Hampton continues to refuse to build a fence to safeguard the tarmac.

For years, the FAA and aviation experts have called on local officials to build a deer fence that would prevent such incidents. While the Federal Government would pay 95% of the cost to build the fence, the local Town Board continues to refuse to use the funds. This dangerous effort is based on the false assumption that by refusing needed federal funds, the board will achieve greater control of the airport and allow them to move forward with their illegal plan to restrict - and even ban - certain flights into the airport. The refusal to build a safety fence has been complemented by the Town's refusal to trim trees that obstruct the flight path, complete minimum upkeep of the runways, and numerous other issues that have put the flying public at risk.

Preserving the safety of the flying public must be paramount to all. Unfortunately, the Town continues in its misguided and illegal campaign to ban flights and as a result they are putting the flying professionals and the public at risk.

Regardless of what one thinks about the airport, it's our sincere hope that we all agree that preserving the safety of property and lives far outweighs any political disagreement. We again call on the Town to do the right thing for everyone's safety and build the fence.

The fight to keep the East Hampton Airport safe now enters a critical phase.

Of course the larger debate around the future of the airport continues and in recent weeks those opposing the airport have hosted a number of events to push for new regulations that will ban flights, reduce operational hours and even eliminate certain types of aircraft. These meetings have been raucous. They've been led by a small but vocal minority of residents offering misguided ideas and

misinformation with the goal of closing or otherwise forever altering service at the airport - despite the obvious impacts to the local community and its economy. We, the Friends of the East Hampton Airport, have attended these meetings and sought to correct the erroneous information presented. We have focused our efforts on finding common ground and commonsense solutions.

Unfortunately, our facts and opinions are consistently overlooked and discounted by airport opponents and most of the Town Board.

At this point, we are not optimistic that the leaders of the Town of East Hampton will ever listen to the facts or our experts' opinions. Nor do we believe they will honestly consider any alternatives, regardless of the public safety or economic dangers we know a deteriorating or shuttered airport will have on the community. The Town plans to unveil a noise study on October 30th, which undoubtedly will be a study designed to further our opposition's position and nothing else.

The opposition is also readying legislation that will permit the Town to ban flights starting on January 1st, 2015. This legislation and these actions are deeply flawed and illegal and we will be fighting them in the courts of law and public opinion.

You will be reading and hearing a lot about the fight to save East Hampton Airport in the coming days. Our goal continues to be for East Hampton Airport to be safe and open to ALL of the flying public. If you appreciate the ease and efficiency of this airport, its impact on the local economy, and if you wish to see its safety standards respected, then please help us fight to keep East Hampton Airport open. We need you now more than ever.