

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2010 MEETING OF  
THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Present: Robert Browning, Syma Ebbin, Bud Fay, Lorraine Santangelo, Tom Seidel, Carl Strand, Bob Taylor, Dave Wright and Catherine Young.

1. Mr. Strand opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were passed to file.
3. Report on traffic activities: Ms. Young presented the first quarter report. Total airport traffic counts for the 1st quarter were: January- 2,529, February- 2,106, and March- 2,981. The January figure was greater than the January 2009 total, while the February and March totals were less than the corresponding months in 2009. The first quarter total was 7,616, slightly less than the 7,782 total for the first quarter of 2009. The Airport's Based Aircraft Inventory for first quarter was 54 aircraft for each month, including 1109th CT AVCRAD Army National Guard aircraft. The reported number in March 2009 was also 54 aircraft. The based aircraft inventory is now electronically recorded on a monthly basis.
4. Report on noise complaints/low-flying aircraft and efforts to abate noise: Ms. Young reported that there were two complaints for the first quarter. One involved a Navy F-18 over North Stonington and one involved an ice patrol C-130 in the vicinity of Midway Oval in Groton.
5. Presentation by the Civil Air Patrol: Commander Paul Nuniewicz could not attend the meeting and Ms. Young indicated that she would request that he address the Committee at its July meeting to be held at the airport.
6. Status discussions:
  - a. Safety: Ms. Young reported on Runway Safety Area (RSA) permit progress based on information from Mr. David Head of CTDOT Planning. The CT DEP Office of Long Island Sound permit approvals were issued on February 11, 2010. CTDOT is therefore set with permits at the State level. In terms of the federal level, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) issued a public notice on March 2, 2010 and some concerned citizens requested that a hearing be held. CT DOT has responded to ACOE, but is in the process of providing more information so that the

ACOE may make a determination if a public hearing should be held.

b. Security: Ms. Young reported that as security access cards expire she renews them if card holders attend the required Airport Safety and Security refresher training.

c. Airport Improvements: In terms of progress on the Airport Master Plan Update (AMPU), Ms. Young reported on information submitted by Mr. Head. Working paper #3 is being completed which will show alternatives to meet forecasted conditions at the airport. It is expected that the AMPU Advisory Committee and a public informational meeting will be held this summer. For more information on AMPU, one should go to the airport website, [www.groton-newlondonairport-ampu.org](http://www.groton-newlondonairport-ampu.org).

In response to a question by Mr. Browning concerning the restaurant and possible commuter service, Ms. Young indicated that CTDOT has contracted to hire Louis Berger and Associates to prepare a Business Plan for the Airport's development while the DOT is completing work on the Airport Master Plan; and until this is completed CTDOT, would not be issuing any RFPs for new projects. Mr. Fay said that business/industrial areas surrounding around the Airport should also be included in these two studies to demonstrate the Airport's economic impact on the entire community.

Ms. Young indicated that the Airport is being surveyed to determine if the FAA Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) is possible at the Airport. WAAS is an extremely accurate navigation system developed for civil aviation.

7. Other matters and activities: In response to a question that Ms. Ebbin had raised at the January meeting concerning airport costs and expenses, Ms. Young indicated that income for the first nine months of the current fiscal year was \$ 322,000 and expenses were \$469,000.

Corresponding figures for the first nine months of the previous fiscal year were \$343,000 and \$599,000. The reduction in expenses primarily reflects a reduction in personnel.

Ms. Young reported that CTDOT is working with the Town of Groton concerning possible solutions concerning periodic road flooding at the AMTRAK underpass on State Route 649 (South Road). Mr. Fay indicated that the sub-committee consisting of Messer's Saunders, Fay and Thompson had met with Senator Maynard and given him the results of their research. Senator Maynard will forward this material to CTDOT. When information is received from CTDOT, Mr. Fay will give it to the SCCOG, who in turn will forward it to the full Airport Advisory Committee.

In other matters, Ms. Young told the Committee that CTDOT is planning to update the Airport's

wildlife hazard assessment which was prepared in 2004. Also, CT DEP has posted signs requesting the public not to feed birds at Bluff Point State Park or to fly kites, because this is unsafe due to the park's close proximity to the flight paths. Ms. Young distributed copies of a letter to Congress highlighting the benefits of, and the need to continue, the FAA contract tower program, and also a letter announcing the formation of the US DOT's Future of Aviation Advisory Committee. Mr. Taylor and Ms. Young indicated the EAA's Flying Fortress B-17, Aluminum Overcast, would be at the Airport from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**8. The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2010, 6:30 PM at the Groton-New London Airport Terminal Building, 155 Tower Avenue, Groton, CT.**

Chairman Strand will be honored for his many decades of service to the Airport Advisory Committee.

9. The meeting ended at 7:58 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Tom Seidel, Secretary.