

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2011 MEETING OF
THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Present: Robert Browning, Susan Cullen, Syma Ebbin, Philip Rusch, Tom Seidel, Carl Strand Jr., David Wright and Catherine Young.

1. Mr. Strand opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the July 19, 2011 meeting were passed to file with no comments.
3. Report on traffic activities: Ms. Young presented the third quarter report. Total airport traffic counts for this quarter were: July- 4,326, August- 4,735, and September- 2,460, for a quarterly total of 11,161. The July and August figures were greater than the respective months in 2010, while the September total was less than the September 2010 figure. For a portion of September Runway 5/23 was closed for the installation of EMAS. The third quarter total for 2010 was 10,658 and for third quarter 2009, the total was 12,673. The Airport's Based Aircraft Inventory for September was 55, the same as September of 2010.
4. Report on noise complaints/low-flying aircraft and efforts to abate noise: Ms. Young reported that there were four noise complaints for the third quarter. One involved a low flying jet over Jupiter Point, the second about loud volume from the National Guard helicopter engine test cell, the third involved a jet approach to RW 15 over Thomas Road, and the fourth involved a low flying aircraft over Sandy Hollow Road. She also reported with the 30 day closure of Runway 5/23 beginning September 12th, there were recent noise complaints and concerns about the bright lights used for the Runway Safety Improvement Project nighttime construction, as well as dust resulting from the many trucks traversing the airport's turf areas. The construction contractor repositioned the lights to point away from the nearby houses, and Ms. Young provided project information to airport neighbors in advance of the start of construction.
5. Ms. Young introduced Mr. Philip Rusch of the National Audubon Society who gave a fascinating presentation on their annual Christmas bird count in southern New London County, which consists of counting all the birds seen and heard within a predetermined 15 mile diameter circle during a 24 hour period on one day between December 14th and January 4th. This was one of 2,215 nationwide counts in 2011 which reported 61,359,451 birds representing over 2,000 species. The center of this southeastern Connecticut circle is located in New London. The Society's most recent local count was conducted on January 1, 2011 by 34 participants who

reported 27,113 birds representing 124 species. Several species were sighted on airport property and its immediate vicinity. The first New London Area count was done in 1914 and continued intermittently until 1950, and from 1951 to the present has been done every year. The data collected by these observers nationwide allows researchers to study the long term health and status of bird populations across North America.

6. Status discussions:

a. Safety: Ms. Young reported on the Runway 5/23 Safety Area (RSA) project. Installation of the Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) for the RSA has been completed for the runway 5 Departure End. EMAS installation is starting for the runway 23 Departure End. The full length of runway 5/23 is currently closed during Monday through Friday overnight hours to allow for construction. All construction work **is scheduled to** cease December 1st and the project will resume after April 1, 2012. Anyone wishing to view the project's progress can contact Ms. Young for a tour.

The Airport Wildlife Hazard Assessment Update surveys that began in December, 2010 continued during the third quarter. A report of findings and recommendations is expected by CT DOT from the project consultant in the first half of 2012. Ms. Young indicated that she would request it be placed on the Airport Web site, if possible.

b. Security: Ms. Young reported that all construction personnel associated with the Runway 5-23 and Taxiway D rehabilitation project were either pre-trained and badged, or escorted onto the airfield by authorized personnel with badges who completed airport security and safety training.

c. Airport Improvements: In terms of progress on the Airport Master Plan Update (AMPU), Ms. Young reported that the State's consultant is working on 'alternative recommendations' for best use of airport real estate. After the recommendations are prepared, there will be a meeting of the airport master plan advisory committee, followed by a public hearing. (For more information on AMPU, one should go to the airport website, www.groton-newlondonairport-ampu.org.)

In terms of the Airport Business Plan project, Ms. Young reported that the Louis Berger Group had prepared draft working paper #3 concerned with the economic analysis and contribution of the airport for review by CT DOT Bureau of Aviation.

7. Other matters and activities: Ms. Young reported on the transition of moving the six State-owned airports from the jurisdiction of CT DOT Bureau of Aviation and Ports to the new Connecticut Airport Authority which will be governed by a Board of Directors and administered by an Executive Director. The authority held its first meeting and is planning to hire the Executive Director by approximately January 1st.

Finally, Ms. Young reported that at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments to be held on October 27th, SECOG would be presented a celebratory Proclamation signed by Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy recognizing fifty years of regional planning. She expressed thanks to the Agency and its staff for the many years they have supported the Groton-New London Airport Advisory Committee.

8. Mr. Strand, Committee Chair, announced the meeting dates for 2012 meetings are January 24th, April 24th, July 17th, and October 24th. The January and April meetings will be held at the Town of Groton Public Library, 52 Route 117; the July meeting at the airport terminal building, 155 Tower Avenue; and the October meeting at the City of Groton Municipal building, 295 Meridian Street. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

9. The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 24, 2012, 7:00 PM at the Town of Groton Public Library, 52 Route 117, Groton, CT.

10. The meeting ended at approximately 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Seidel, Secretary.