

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 MEETING OF  
THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ATTENDING: Robert Browning, Tom Durkin, Sam Eisenbeiser, Roscoe Merritt, Stephanie Molden, Barry Pallanck, Zell Steever, Carl Strand, Eric Thompson

**1. Call to Order:** Dr. Thompson opened the meeting at 7:05PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Thompson -The draft minutes of the January 2017 meeting were amended for spelling errors, approved, and then passed to file.

**3. Report on Air Traffic Activities:** Mr. Durkin reported that the First Quarter 2017 traffic, at 7,222 aircraft operations, was in line with previous years - slightly lower than the 7,850 operations in Q1 2016, but higher than Q1 2013-2015. Mr. Pallanck noted that there has been an influx of air traffic on the weekends, and that winter weather may have been the reason for decreased traffic in Q1.

**4. Report on Noise Complaints/Low-Flying Aircraft and Efforts to Abate Noise:** Mr. Durkin reached out to the Connecticut and Rhode Island Air National Guard bases to remind pilots to follow the noise abatement procedures at KGON, particularly when operating C-130 aircraft. No noise complaints were recorded for the First Quarter of 2017.

**5. Status Discussions:**

*a. Safety:* Mr. Durkin shared that KGON passed its annual 14 CFR Part 139 inspection, conducted by New England FAA, with a rating of "Excellent." Mr. Durkin thanked the airport maintenance staff for their hard work in maintaining the airfield.

*b. Security:* Mr. Pallanck had nothing new to report.

*c. Airport Improvements:* Mr. Durkin passed out menus for the newly opened restaurant at the airport, Café 511. Café 511 used to be located in Mystic, but opened at the airport to take advantage of more space. Mr. Durkin reported that many people, including general aviators and military personnel, are already taking advantage of the amenity, and Mr. Browning noted that Café 511 had already provided catering services to several private jets.

**6. Other Matters and Activities:** Dr. Thompson asked that anyone who wanted to volunteer at the AOPA Fly-In, being held at KGON October 6-7, please register on the [AOPA website](#) and contact Mr. Charlie Levandoski, volunteer coordinator.

Mr. Merritt shared that he is a district representative in Groton, and had some members of his community express concern about the potential tree obstruction removal at Bluff Point, as well as concern about potential expansion at the airport. Dr. Thompson explained that the airport was not going to be expanded, that the obstruction removal at Bluff Point was still being studied, and that Bluff Point would not be clear cut in any way. Mr. Pallanck noted that the Environmental Assessment is still in progress and in its beginning phases. The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) still has to conduct a review of the project before work is pursued.

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**8. Date of Next Meeting:** July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Meeting will be held at the Groton-New London Airport, 155 Tower Avenue, Groton.

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Molden