

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JULY 25TH, 2017 MEETING OF
THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ATTENDING: Robert Browning, Susan Cullen, Syma Ebbin, Stephanie Molden, Barry Pallanck, Kurt Sendlein, 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 April 2017 meeting were passed to file.

3. Report on Air Traffic Activities: Mr. Sendlein reported that the Second Quarter 2017 traffic is on track to be the third highest, behind 2007 and 2008 traffic levels. Mr. Sendlein expects that air traffic in 2017 will eclipse 2016 numbers. Dr. Thompson asked if the CAA can separate out local and itinerant traffic to gain a clearer understanding of what type of traffic is driving the increase, and Mr. Sendlein noted that the CAA can separate out these figures in their database, and suggested that the increase is likely due to itinerant traffic as well as the flight school.

4. Report on Noise Complaints/Low-Flying Aircraft and Efforts to Abate Noise: Mr. Sendlein reported that two complaints were received by phone, and Mr. Pallanck said that one was received through the CAA website. The complaints were primarily regarding early morning and late night operations that were disturbing to neighbors. Mr. Sendlein said that he would be checking in with maintenance to see if they could identify the incidents related to the complaints, and implored that the public please identify themselves and attempt to identify the aircraft in question, when making a complaint, so that the CAA could better find the source of the problem. Mr. Browning noted that the Mystic Jet Center keeps copies of the airport's noise abatement procedures available for visiting pilots in order to help aid compliance. Ms. Ebbin reported that there have been a lot of flights occurring in the very early morning and the very late evening, and that many neighbors do not call the CAA anymore because it is too difficult to go through the complaint process, especially during nighttime hours.

5. Status Discussions:

a. Safety: Nothing to report.

b. Security: Mr. Sendlein reported that on May 17th, President Trump visited the airport when he came to address the graduating class of the Coast Guard Academy. Mr. Sendlein noted that this was a significant operation for the airport and required extensive security preparation. He said that the process was very interesting and informative for the airport employees. Mr. Browning reported that many of the planes that flew into KGON at the time of the President's visit bought fuel, which provided a positive economic boost for the supporting businesses.

c. Airport Improvements: Mr. Pallanck reported that improvements to KGON facilities are not pending, as the CAA is still currently investing in repairing the runway at the Waterbury-Oxford Airport. The CAA is also considering making more improvements to the KGON terminal in the future. He also reported that the CAA is still working on the analysis of the obstructions on Bluff Point, and hopes to submit that document to the FAA by August 2017. Ms. Ebbin inquired about the status of the pending clear cuts on Bluff Point, as it was her view that a previous clearing effort on a nearby 8 acres

THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

resulted in clear cutting. Mr. Sendlein and Mr. Pallanck rejected the term clear cutting, and said that Bluff Point would not be clear cut, and that the proposal still has to go to planning and design, and then permitting, before it moves to another round of public meetings. Ms. Ebbin asked about the status of the fencing proposal, and Mr. Pallanck said that that proposal still needs to be reviewed by FAA to determine if there will be any significant impacts. He expects that the proposal will be sent to FAA before the end of 2017.

6. Other Matters and Activities: On August 19th, the airport will be hosting a National Aviation Day open house and walking tour. The event will take place from 10AM to 2PM and is open to the public. Mr. Sendlein noted that the Groton Business Association has been instrumental in providing assistance for events at the airport and supporting tourism in the region.

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.

8. Date of Next Meeting: October 24th, 2017. Meeting will be held at the City of Groton Municipal Building, 295 Meridian Street, Groton, CT.

9. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Molden