

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2019 MEETING OF**

**THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Present: Franz Edson, Carly Myers, Barry Pallanck, Carl Strand

Carl Strand opened the meeting at 7:05 pm

The minutes of the October 22, 2018 meeting were passed to file with no comments.

- Barry Pallanck reported that aircraft activity continues to be at its highest level during the fourth quarter for more than ten years at this time of year with approximately 13,000 operations. He noted that economy is doing well, so more people are flying. He is experiencing similar boosts at Hartford and Oxford as well. Flight instruction is picking up as well. He noted that operations for the year were up by nearly 10,000 as compared to last year.
- There were a number of reports of low flying aircraft during the fourth quarter. At least one of these was Connecticut Air National Guard C-130 training flights. Several others needed more information. Another report of very low flying aircraft over Noank was again reported. The caller will attempt to get tail number information if it recurs. Both Barry and I noted that we have come a long way from years ago with complaints of low flying aircraft or noise issues. The days of thirty or forty people at the meeting screaming about noise is thankfully gone. The Part 150 study and implementation of noise abatement procedures has been successful for the most part.
- No issues have been reported on the subject of safety and security. Earlier issues with drones has been reduced as private operators have gotten the word that operating around an airport is not allowed. Commercial drone operators are more careful as they do not want to lose their license.
- Mr. Pallanck reported that the resurfacing of Runway 5-23 is scheduled for 2020, but may be pushed back by funding issues. The runway is expected to be out of service for a month. Lighting and signs would also be addressed.
- Mr. Edson asked if anything further had been heard on commercial flights coming to the airport. Mr. Pallanck stated that there was nothing new on the issue. Increases in charters, corporate aircraft and the military are a good thing and are the future of the airport in the near term.
- Mr. Pallanck reported that the wildlife fencing project is moving forward, permits are in for that. If all goes well with that, construction might start as early as this fall.
- Mr. Pallanck noted that the art program at the airport continues to do well and will continue with the collaboration between the Airport Authority and the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition.
- The Open House for National Aviation Day is planned for the weekend before on August 17 and 18. That has always been a popular even and will continue in the same pattern if possible.
- The subject of meeting at an earlier time, such as 5:00 P.M. was broached . This will be discussed at the April meeting and a decision made.

**The next quarterly advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2019, starting at 7:00 pm at the Town of Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Rd, Route 117.**

The meeting ended at 7:55 pm.

Carl Strand for the Committee