

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2019 MEETING OF
THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Carl Strand opened the meeting at 7:03 pm

The minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting were passed to file with no comments.

- Kurt Sendlein reported that aircraft activity continues to be at its highest level during the second quarter for past eleven years, with approximately 14,000 operations. He noted that the flight schools had been adversely affected by weather in April and May, but heavier aircraft were flying and fuel sales have been up. All areas of the airport show the trend.
- There were a small number of noise complaints. One was for low flying aircraft near Jupiter Point and a second was a Mystic caller "The jets are getting more aggressive". Mr. Pallanck noted again that it is not like it used to be with many complaints and many people at meetings. We must be doing something right.
- Crews have been working during night hours on repainting runway markings. There are so many coats of striping paint that the existing paint needs to be ground off and new striping applied. A section of runway that was a concern from the Part 139 inspection has been repaved. With the wet summer we are having maintain grass mowing remains a constant issue. The National Security Advisor, John Bolton was the Coast Guard Academy commencement speaker. Security was relatively minor for his visit.
- Mr. Pallanck reported that the project will be done this fall to remove old fuel storage tanks from the fuel farm and from several buildings. Conversion to natural gas will take place, and new vehicle fuel storage tanks installed.
- Mr. Pallanck reported that the obstruction removal project will follow a similar one at Brainard currently in progress. Project definition should be completed sometime in early 2020, along with easements and permitting but actual obstruction removal probably would not occur before 2021.
- Mr. Pallanck reported that the wildlife fencing project contract has been awarded and construction is expected to start this fall. Again, he reminded all that it's a deterrent, not an absolute denial of access. If it keeps the molting geese from walking on the runway and deters most of the deer, that's about all that can be expected.
- Mr. Pallanck noted that an earlier start for signage and lighting on runway 5-23 is being investigated. The actual resurfacing project is tentatively scheduled for 2022.
- Planning is essentially finalized for the Open House for National Aviation Day on the weekend before, August 17 and 18. This is always a popular event and will continue in the same pattern. In addition to all the aircraft/airport related events, passport applications will be available. New this year is a showcase of home built aircraft. The people involved in the 2020 Census also asked if they could attend to promote public awareness of its occurrence next year.
- A Wings and Wheels event is scheduled for October 5. There will be several seminars for pilots and several car clubs are expected to attend. It's the first time for this event, so expectations are modest.
- There was general discussion about an individual wanting to have an air show. They were not aware of the cost of doing so, nor interested in acquiring sponsors. They generally were not aware of the planning required nor the space requirements of such an event.
- There was general agreement that the 5:00 pm start time is good for all.

The next quarterly advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2019, starting at 5:00 pm at the City of Groton Municipal Building.

The meeting ended at 7:53 pm.

Carl Strand for the Committee