

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2019 MEETING OF
THE GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT (KGON) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Present: Carly Myers, Barry Pallanck, Carl Strand

Carl Strand opened the meeting at 5:05 pm

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

- Barry Pallanck reported that aircraft activity continues to be at its highest level during the third quarter for the past eleven years, with approximately 12,000 operations. He noted that although overall operations are somewhat lower this quarter, commercial activity continues strong and fuel sales have been up.
- There were a small number of noise complaints. One was for small planes overflying Jupiter Point and a second was a Mystic caller "unrelenting noise for an hour". A low flying aircraft report was likely one of the Collings Foundation flights.
- The FAA has installed new PAPI systems, replacing the old glide slope indicator system.
- Mr. Pallanck reported that there were two VIP visits, the Secretary of Defense and former President George W Bush. The visits happened on short notice and the purpose was not known, but was probably involved with submarines at Electric Boat.
- A photo of the wildlife fencing project was available at the meeting. The project should be completed by the end of next month. The black fencing is fairly unobtrusive, but does not eliminate all complaints Mr Pallanck again noted 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.
- A new fuel farm system is being installed. This is an above ground system, replacing the old underground system that has been removed. Natural Gas is replacing oil for building heating in some locations.
- Mystic Wings and Wheels was held for the first time sponsored by Mystic Jet Center and Lanmar Aviation. This featured some unique aircraft and automobiles. This was a trial event, but was well received with about 400 persons in attendance. It is likely to be repeated next year.
- The August Open House was essentially rained out. In spite of that some 400 persons came. None of the flying activities could take place, but people were still interested in touring facilities and seeing the aircraft that were there.
- The artwork displays in the terminal building seem to be well received by the community. A meet the artist event was held in August and again was well attended and promoted interest in the displays.
- Painting has been completed on the runways. Runway reconstruction has been pushed off to 2023 although some paving has been done near the terminal and potential work is being planned for a depression that needs to be leveled.
- Unfortunately, the restaurant has closed. This was due to the family having twins and not being able to have both husband and wife working there. It was not a financial problem and interest is being shown in the requests for proposals that have gone out.
- Mr. Strand proposed meeting dates for next year. They are January 28, with a snow date of February 4 at the Groton Library; April 28 at the Groton Library; July 28 at the Airport; and October 27 at the City of Groton Municipal Building. There was no objection to these dates.
- Mr. Strand also reported on a dedication of plaques and a bench in Preston in remembrance of the two Navy pilots who collided during night maneuvers in 1944 while training.

The next quarterly advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2020, starting at 5:00 pm at the Groton Public Library.

The meeting ended at 5:35 pm.

Carl Strand for the Committee