

Declare a Moratorium

Sag Harbor

October 3, 2011

Dear Editor,

After interminable debate and dozens of articles, there remains vociferous disagreement regarding whether or not East Hampton Town, as airport proprietor, does or does not have power to control aircraft access to the airport.

Given this disagreeable situation, it would appear to be in the best interests of all to declare a moratorium on expansion, “safety” improvements, or acceptance of any Federal Aviation Administration money until this crucial point has been legally clarified at the state and/or federal level. Without legal clarification, the questions and recriminations will continue, making an already intolerable situation even more disagreeable.

This is the issue making headlines, yet there are many other troubling issues to contend with at East Hampton Airport: the toxic effect of aviation-fuel emissions, no monitoring of air quality surrounding the airport, no monitoring of groundwater quality — all major health concerns for area residents.

It was interesting to read in the article by Joanne Pilgrim (Sept. 29) that all Democratic candidates have stated a position on the F.A.A. funding issue and it is laudable that they have the courage to do so. It would be helpful if candidates running for the Independence and Republican Parties would publicly state their positions on the issue, so voters can base their decisions on statements in the public record and not on hearsay.

Does East Hampton Town simply not want to assert local control and therefore is shamefully using the F.A.A. as an excuse? Residents have the right to know whether or not the town would have the power to exclude aircraft, set curfews, or otherwise restrict airport access in order to control noise if the F.A.A. — and not the Town of East Hampton — is in control of the airport. Voters need the truth, no jargon, no obfuscation, just facts. Thank you.

PATRICIA CURRIE