

Infamous Four

East Hampton

November 14, 2011

Dear David,

The current administration claims to be seeking public input for a decision it plans to make to take Federal Aviation Administration funding to replace the deer fence at East Hampton Airport.

One could construe this as an attempt to strangle the opportunity for local control for an incoming town board on Jan. 1, should Zach Cohen's bid for supervisor ultimately place him at the helm.

Len Bernard, the East Hampton Town budget officer, has confirmed a \$1.5 million surplus in airport revenues. Revenues generated by the airport, as required by currently active grant assurances with the F.A.A., must be spent on the airport. Why not use that money for a deer fence, if a fence is needed?

Our elected officials must recognize the burden carried by the local community because of unreasonable hours of operation (24/7), intolerable noise levels from helicopters, jets, and seaplanes, and carbon emissions. These emissions are discharged not only into the fragile ecosystems of the Peconic Bay estuary and surrounding communities, but right onto the homes, decks, and lawns of thousands of residents. And, they extend to the entire East End.

Our elected officials must recognize the diminished value of local real estate due to egregious quality of life impacts this airport causes residents. Our elected leaders must decline to cater to powerful political interests in the community, who have, for decades, dictated town policy on the airport.

The only option available to improve quality of life conditions is to

return East Hampton airport to local control by allowing the infamous four critical grant assurances to expire at the end of 2014.

Taking any F.A.A. money, whether \$1 or \$1 million, will push local control of our airport for noise-mitigation purposes out of the lifetimes of most of East Hampton's current residents.

A responsible town board would hold off on this decision until an actual cost-benefit analysis of the airport's ability to be self-sustaining can be conducted, which is actually required by our town code. Why not do that first and then make decisions about which improvements are necessary for safety and how they might be funded?

Thank you,

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM