

An Utter Failure

Wainscott

November 18, 2011

Dear David,

Regarding the hearing on the deer fence planned to take place next Thursday, I would like to address the absurdity of spending money on a deer fence rather than talking about the political suicide of accepting Federal Aviation Administration money in the 11th hour after the people spoke clearly in the election.

I am a pilot, and I successfully bow-hunted deer for 20 years around the airport. To be a successful bowhunter, one needs to become very familiar with deer behavior and deer patterns. One needs to study where deer feed, where they bed down, and patterns of deer movement.

When the original deer fence was installed, I laughed so hard, that I almost fell down. Whoever designed the fence had no clue about the behavior and patterns of deer movement. I knew the fence would not keep deer out and it never did.

Every evening 30 to 40 deer would come out of the woods and graze in the fields around the runways. Airport personnel would chase deer away from the runways with golf carts. My golden retriever, Dusty, was the airport mascot and would ride shotgun on the passenger side of the golf cart. One day he came home with a baggage ticket tied to his collar that said, "Places I Visited Today," and it was signed by the fixed-base operators, pilots, and people working at the airport.

As pilots, we took special care if we landed an airplane in the evening or at night. We would make a low pass run down the runway to scare the deer away, circle around, and then make a safe landing. Pilots who were not familiar with the airport or the deer problem sometimes would strike deer upon landing. I don't recall anyone being injured; however, damage would occur to the airplane that would be covered by airplane insurance.

It is similar to what people on the roads in East Hampton deal with every day, so, why all the hysteria?

After realizing the deer fence was an utter failure in keeping deer away from the airport, the town made a very smart decision to hire a guy to kill all the deer around the airport. This was done very quietly so the Bambi-lovers and animal rights groups didn't get wind of it. As a bow hunter, the results were obvious, and I eventually gave up bowhunting.

The East Hampton Lions Club coordinates cutting up venison when the state culls the deer herd on the East End. A refrigerated meat locker was installed at the East Hampton Food Pantry. If my memory is correct, about 1,800 pounds of venison is donated per year to the food pantry. Wouldn't it be smarter for our town board to hire a guy again and coordinate with the East Hampton Lions Club to donate the venison to the East Hampton Food Pantry? Certainly it will be much cheaper than to waste \$450,000 on a deer fence that will never work.

Supervisor Bill Wilkinson is a lion; certainly he should understand the service such a decision can have on the needy in East Hampton. It is good stewardship of town assets and taxpayer money.

FRANK DALENE

Vice Chairman

Quiet Skies Coalition