

Up to the People

Wainscott

November 18, 2011

Dear Editor:

As I read with complete amazement your last week's lead editorial: "F.A.A. Cash Is Short-Term Gain," I couldn't help but think you missed making the most important point in this ongoing debate in your headline.

It's really quite simple: Two camps disagree and common sense dictates that further study of the issue is needed. It's up to the people of East Hampton to look at all the facts and decide whether or not the consequences of the indenture outweigh the benefits.

Voters seemed to agree as candidates backing a more cautious approach to this important decision were victorious while the "my way or the highway" crew suffered a pretty serious beat-down.

Think about it. If the pro-Federal Aviation Administration people want their money, they can get it at any time. The F.A.A. is not going to ever say no. Not next month, not next week, not next year. That's its job. The worst-case scenario here is that we wait a few years while well-intentioned measures such as a seasonal control tower are implemented and tested. No big deal.

But consider the brutal alternative that is all but guaranteed if this last-minute, back-room ploy by Councilman Dominick Stanzione and Supervisor Bill Wilkinson is permitted without the people of East Hampton knowing all the facts and repercussions.

Picture what the skies over our villages, our bays, our beaches, and our beautiful open spaces might be like 20 years from now if helicopter, seaplane, and jet noise continues to increase as it has over the past 20 years. There will be no peace and quiet anywhere in East Hampton or eastern Southampton.

Perhaps your headline should have read: "F.A.A. Cash Is Long-Term Disaster."

Respectfully submitted,
TOM MacNIVEN