**Nine Reasons to Close the Airport, Rather than Modify and Keep it Open**

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**Thank you for this opportunity to speak on a vital issue for this community and region**

* Public land of this acreage should be used for the public good. 1% of the people benefit, whereas everyone else is both denied access and subjected to the unremitting assault of aircraft pollution (air, groundwater, visual, and noise).
* If the airport remains an airport, it can be returned to its current state, or worse, with a change of the town board, a public referendum subject to the lies and distortions of the airporters’ lobby, Blade, etc. and a 3-2 vote to take FAA money.
* The notion of returning to the good old days when it was just a little ol’ country airport with piper cubs flying around is not going to happen. Just deciding what type of aircraft may use the airport is problematic. Regulating types and curfews and restrictions will be a constant problem. Planes turn off their responders routinely now and come in at all hours invisibly. There are rogue operators. Will there be 24 hour-security at the airport to ensure this doesn’t happen?
* Another huge problem with “small planes” is that they too are quite invasive of privacy, are plenty loud, often fly dangerously low—and use leaded fuel, avgas, which is spewing lead particulate matter into the air and onto the groundwater. And this is a hundred yards from a pre-school!
* Btw, the pilots of smaller planes have NEVER done anything to support the community in calling for restrictions and regulations. They continue to support the status quo, routinely mocking community members who complain about their callous behavior.
* And finally, with regard to “smaller planes”, they are responsible for thousands and thousands of operations per year. If they are the only type allowed, we will likely see an increase in their number, perhaps exponentially. We cannot afford to allow luxury recreation to continue to accelerate the climate crisis. Flying an aircraft for pleasure is no longer acceptable, just as burning leaves was finally banned decades ago. And gas-powered blowers were banned this summer. Did anyone miss their awful noise and air pollution?
* As long as the land is an airport, the rental monies from commercial businesses on the apron cannot benefit the taxpayers. Nor can the land be used to generate additional revenues for the town.
* As long as the land is an airport thousands of local people will have to risk their very lives when walking, running, or riding bikes on our crowded and dangerous roadways, such as 114 and Further Lane and Town Lane.
* If we don’t want endless problems indefinitely, we need to close the airport and use the public’s land for the common good. That’s just common sense.