



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Continued Public Participation is Needed as East Hampton Town Board Completes Mandated Legal Steps to Address Airport Safety, Noise, and Environmental Impacts

Town Board heard public loud and clear during extended public process calling for change at East Hampton Airport

Airport to be deactivated on May 17 and new private-use airport to open on May 19.

Alternatives to implement and study during Summer 2022 season are being developed; Prior Permission Required (PPR) Framework will allow airport use based on certain parameters, and their impact will be examined

Following extensive public comment during an airport “re-envisioning” process in 2021, during which many called for changes to lessen the negative impacts of aircraft on the community, and a large majority agreed the status quo is unacceptable, the East Hampton Town Board voted to deactivate the current airport and to reopen a new airport that can be operated under local regulations.

The board has now embarked on the New York State-mandated legal process in order to enact restrictions at the new airport, under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

View an overview of the process:

<https://eamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11767/Airport-SEQRA-Scoping-Process-Presentation>

Steps in the SEQRA process:

Currently:

- Public “Scoping” session, to identify the range of options and alternative actions related to airport operation that could be studied to determine their impacts, and if they achieve the desired results

Public input is needed at this stage of the process. We invite members of the public to suggest what actions they believe should be assessed. Comments may be submitted

through March 18 to EHAirportScope@EHamptonny.gov, or sent by mail to the Town Clerk, 159 Pantigo Road, East Hampton NY 11937..

While many opinions and suggestions were submitted by members of the public during the previous “airport re-envisioning” public sessions, leading the Town Board to embark on this detailed process to effect change at the airport, this additional opportunity for public input, and the development of an outline framing the range of action alternatives and their possible impacts **is a required part of the legal SEQRA process**, and will help to define alternatives and areas of study.

Read the **draft** scoping outline that has been prepared:

<https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11736/Appendix-C---EHA-Op-Changes-Draft-Scoping-Outline>

For Town Board and public consideration, a **proposed** “Prior Permission Required” (PPR) framework for the 2022 season was presented by East Hampton’s aviation attorneys at the March 2 Town Board work session, listing how permission to use the airport could be based on factors such as time of day, aircraft operator, and noise.

Read the proposed PPR framework: <https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/934>

Exactly what measures will be put in place and studied during the 2022 summer season are still to be determined, with comment requested from the public by March 18.

Next Steps to be taken, according to the mandated NYS SEQRA process:

- Town board selects which options to implement during the coming summer season in order to study their impacts, as required, and includes them in a final “Draft GEIS Scope”
- Data to be collected throughout the summer season after new airport opens with “Prior Permission Required” (PPR) framework in place
- Post-Summer:

Assessment of the impacts of the initial set of use restrictions.

Preparation of a draft generic Environmental Impact Statement, required by SEQRA, that identifies and discusses the impacts.

Town Board discussion of the effectiveness of the initial restrictions, and possible revisions. Town Board retains ability to be flexible and adjust “Prior Permission Required” (PPR) framework as needed.

The Town Board will consider the impact of the PPR in deciding whether and how to operate the airport in the future. The board may modify the restrictions, should the initial restrictions studied over the summer not achieve the desired result.

Access all of the Town of East Hampton airport-related documents:
<https://hamptonny.gov/745/Airport-Public-Engagement-Process>