

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Board hereby adopts the following Klenawicus Airfield Stewardship Management Plan, as follows:

Introduction

Klenawicus Airfield (Airfield) is the subject of a contract between the Klenawicus family and the Town of Shelter Island and the County of Suffolk, severally, under which, at a closing expected to take place this year, the property currently shown on the Tax Map as p/o SCTM 0700-003-01-007 will be acquired as to approximately 17 acres on the west of the property by the County and approximately 17 acres to the east by the Town. Seven building lots are being retained by the sellers. (See attached property map.)

The property is located at the southwest corner of Cartwright and Burns Roads. The 34 acres have historically been used as an airport. At the same time, it sits close to the center of Shelter Island and is an important aquifer recharge area. Acquisition as open space will reduce the possible 25 or more homes that could be developed on this parcel. The property also borders on Lily Pond to the south - part of a series of wetlands running north/south in this area. Open space preservation will protect the integrity of this pond.

In agreeing to make this acquisition both the Town and the County were principally concerned with the fact that the Airfield is located over Shelter Island's main aquifer. Their primary objective was thus to preserve the underlying water table and to protect it from contamination. A secondary objective for the Town was to ensure that the Airfield would continue to be used as such. The Airfield is part of Shelter Island's history, and is one of the few remaining grass airstrips still operating on Long Island. In addition, it is the Island's primary facility for incoming and outgoing Medevac flights, LifeFlight operations, scallop seeding air deliveries, and other operations that serve the Town in emergency situations. It is anticipated that aircraft and related activities will be no more, and probably less, than they have been for the past fifty years.

The Town controls only the 17 acres on the eastern side of the property, so this management plan ("Plan") thus refers only to that part of the property.

Intentions

The Town intends that the primary public use of its part of the Airfield will continue to be as an airstrip. All such operations shall take place on land owned by the Town of Shelter Island. No such operations shall take place on land owned by Suffolk County, except that occasional minor incursions resulting from cross-winds, etc. shall be deemed reasonable rather than serious impingements. The attached map shows the location of the runway, the existing hangar, equipment staging, aircraft tiedowns, vehicle parking areas, Medevac staging areas, and vehicle parking areas.

The Town intends to enter into a management agreement with the Shelter Island Pilots' Association (SIPA) to manage this property as an airfield. A copy of the agreement with SIPA is attached for reference.

In the event that SIPA or another entity is unable or unwilling to operate the airfield, the property will simply be kept as an emergency landing area for Medevac flights, LifeFlight operations and law enforcement and government flights.

Name

The Airfield will be called "Klenawicus Airfield" and will be so-called on all Town maps and descriptive material. The only entrance to the Airfield shall be from Cartwright Road, and

shall be marked with a prominent sign giving the name, and possibly a reference to Frank and Joe Klenawicus and a reference to the international flights conducted by Sidney Stiber.

Improvements

The land to be acquired by the Town includes certain improvements relating to its use as an airstrip. These include six "T" hangars which are used, and will continue to be used, for storing aircraft. SIPA, with authorization from the Town, may enter into similar arrangements with individual pilots for continued use of the hangars, collection of rents, and payment for improvements, as a non-profit organization, and with the proceeds being used for ongoing operations, repairs, and improvements. Other improvements are a windsock and tie-downs.

Management

The Town will contract with the Shelter Island Pilots' Association (SIPA) to manage, maintain and take responsibility for the Airfield. This will include property, structure and equipment management and maintenance, as well as overseeing flight operations. The management agreement with SIPA contains provisions to ensure that the neighboring properties are undisturbed by airfield activities.

SIPA has informed the Town of its intent that the operation of the Airfield should be self-sufficient and at no cost whatsoever to either the Town of Shelter Island or Suffolk County, and that the members of the SIPA will bear the costs of operation, maintenance, insurance, collection of hangar rentals and tiedown rentals, hangar maintenance and repair, landing fees, and associated activities.

SIPA is responsible for maintaining the Airfield, taxiways, and associated grounds. A standing brush barrier shall be left on the western side of the runway, on Suffolk County property, to delineate the actual runway.

The Airfield has never been fertilized or watered, and therefore both are deemed unnecessary and are not contemplated. No fuel facility shall be located on the site. All activities shall be conducted to maximize protection of the aquifer.

In the event that SIPA no longer manages the property, the Town plans to keep the airstrip mowed sufficiently to allow emergency flights as described above. The hangar will be used for storage of Town equipment and vehicles, and maintained at taxpayer expense.

Public Access and Signage

Although the Airfield is public property, it will remain in use as an airstrip, with flight operations as specified above. Consistent with public safety, the Town will prohibit any pedestrian traffic on the runway or on a buffer zone five yards either side of the runway. Customary non-airfield uses (such as horse grazing and parking related to the annual firemen's picnic) that do not interfere with flight operations will continue if permitted by the Town.

Signs will be posted along the roadways bounding the north and south sides of the field, on Burns Road and on Congdon Road respectively, regarding airfield operations on this site.

Measures to Protect Ecology

Both SIPA, its successors, and the Town will manage the property to protect the ecology of this property. Specifically:

- (i) Birds: no particular action will be taken other than using whatever methods are legal and effective to remove geese from the runway prior to flight operations
- (ii) Animals: Deer represent a hazard to flight operations. Actions to reduce deer grazing on the airfield will be allowed. Nuisance hunting if necessary will be conducted in conformance with Town rules and regulations.

(iii) Wetlands: the pond at the end of the runway is an ecologically valuable freshwater wetland, home to snapping turtles, ducks, and other fauna. The Town and property managers will use every effort to ensure that maintenance and flight operations do not interfere with the pond or the local flora and fauna.

(iv) Aquifer: storage of bulk petroleum products anywhere on the airfield (including the hangars) will be prohibited.