

AIRPORT: *New Liaison Proposes More Studies*

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of the airport is determined, we can then determine how much money is potentially available to pay debt service on bonding for airport capital projects," she said. "Ultimately the financial analysis will help guide the board on how the airport can best be financed in the future—either self-financing or through FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] subsidies, as it is the board's desire to have it operate without cost to taxpayers."

Also on the town's plate is the ever-contentious issue of noise abatement. To tackle this, Ms. Burke-Gonzalez said a professional firm—the job will be put out to bid—would look at operations and noise data so that the problem can be pinpointed and resolved through restrictions.

Two committees will be formed to advise the town on the airport's operations and capital. According to Ms. Burke-Gonzalez, the five-year, \$5.3 million capital improvement plan and \$5.2 million airport maintenance plan

were both adopted in December without much input from the community.

Creating the new committees is the new Town Board's way of including members of the public in improving the airport, she said.

The Airport Planning Committee will consist of two subcommittees made of figures in the aviation community and noise abatement advocates.

The advocates would represent the former Airport Noise Abatement Advisory Committee, the Quiet Skies Coalition, Northwest Alliance, the Village Preservation Society and the Committee to Stop Airport Expansion.

The town is still firming up those who will represent the aviation community, but hopes to appoint members from the Pilots Association and the Fixed Base Operators.

Once a consensus is reached, these members will be responsible for coming up with a plan to reduce noise and to handle operations and capital, Ms. Burke-Gonzalez said.



Joan Holden, left, and Eleanor Cobb, residents of Windmill Village II senior housing complex, show photos of the mold that they say has been making them very ill.

LAURA WEIR

MOLD: *Residents Claim Illness*

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ever mold was left was sprayed with a chemical moldicide. New Sheetrock was painted over.

The basement has remained locked and accessible by appointment only since then.

This was the second time the apartments had undergone mold remediation. Since its construction in 2002, water from plumbing had built up and trickled down into Sheetrock placed on the basement ceiling to meet fire code requirements. More than three years ago, the housing board members said they spent more than \$80,000 to take down the Sheetrock and eliminate the mold.

Some residents said that initial work done to remove the mold was ineffective, and that numerous medical conditions have cropped up or have gotten continually worse because of mold spreading through their apartments.

Joan Holden, a resident of number 29, said she has suffered daily headaches, arthritis, asthma and a fogginess of mind since she moved in. Whenever she spent time away from the apartment for an extended period of time, her condition would improve, she said.

A few of the tenants were convinced the mold had a part to play in their illnesses, so they hired Mildew Busters of Shelter Island Heights in August to take samples of the air in their apartments. Ms. Holden said she had the greatest amount of mold spores in her apartment—and it was the bad kind: penicillium/aspergillus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, while aspergillus is one of the most common household molds, people can come down with aspergillosis, a disease caused by this fungus that usually occurs in those with lung diseases or weakened immune systems. The spectrum of illness includes allergic reactions, lung infections and infections in other organs.

Mr. DeSario said that after remediation all buildings tested have been found to be within normal, safe ranges, however. He added that it was tough for him to say if these reported illnesses had anything to do with the mold at Windmill Village II.

But as far as Ms. Miley is concerned, what has been done so far isn't enough. She said she wants answers. "I cough like I've got TB," she said. "I used to be able to stay up from 4 a.m. to 4 a.m. the next day, and now I huff and I puff."

DEER: *Surveys And Studies On Population Leave Questions*

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ported 131. Cornell University's wildlife specialists estimated the true number of deer on the island to be between 600 and 800.

Time of year also will make a difference, according to Mike Scheibel of The Nature Conservancy, who manages the Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island. Populations peak around Memorial Day, after the fawns are born, then taper off and bottom out after hunting season in winter.

"There's fewer today than there were this time yesterday morning," as deer fall to motor vehicles, hunters and other mortal encounters, until new ones are born the next spring, Mr. Scheibel said.

The DEC estimates roughly 25,000 to 35,000 deer on all of Long Island, according to spokeswoman Aphrodite Montalvo, who could not narrow that number down by county or township. Deer need a habitat with shrub and cover, and assuming about one-third of Suffolk County to be too developed to be hospitable, the DEC estimates that the remaining habitat supports an average of 35 to 50 deer per square mile. Ms. Montalvo called that "a conservative estimate" based on density surveys in East End towns.

She did not have comparative estimates for 10 years ago, but said, "It can be safely assumed that deer population numbers have increased based on deer harvest numbers and westward deer migration."

Counting deer is expensive and difficult, with varying degrees of confidence in the results. "Really, it's the impacts to people that are more important than the actual number of deer," Mr. Curtis said, making a point echoed by Ms. Woffsohn and Mr. Scheibel as well.

"People just get hung up on [numbers]," he said. "It's clear: If there weren't too many deer, people wouldn't be talking about these issues."

In East Hampton Town, 81 motor vehicle accidents involving deer were reported in 2013; 101 in 2012; 106 in 2010; and 108 in 2005. According to the East

Hampton Town Police Department, there were 70 in 2000 and 68 in 1995. The number of people injured in those accidents was not available. According to the East Hampton Town Deer Management Plan, the town's Highway Department removed 334 deer from the roadsides in 2008 and 231 in 2009, with another 200 estimated to have been removed from state roads in each year.

Whitetail deer are often implicated when it comes to Lyme disease, which after all is transmitted by black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, however, the role deer play in the spread of Lyme disease to humans is not entirely clear.

Ticks become infected by feeding on infected animals, such as mice and other small mammals, early in life. They then can transmit that infection to other, uninfected animals like humans in the following year. Deer themselves cannot become infected with the Lyme disease bacteria, according to Kiersten J. Kugeler, an epidemiologist at the CDC's Division of Vector-borne Diseases.

In adulthood, however, most ticks feed on deer, as well as other medium to large mammals, which is where they get their "final blood meal, before dropping off the deer and laying eggs that will hatch the following summer into new, uninfected larval ticks ... and the cycle begins again," Ms. Kugeler said. "There have been several studies that have examined the role of deer population reduction on abundance of black-legged ticks, and with mixed results. Therefore, the jury is still out on whether deer population reduction should be considered a Lyme disease prevention measure."

"Deer are one of those species that are a driver of the ecology," said Mr. Scheibel of the Mashomack Preserve, whose staff have been studying the effects of overbrowsing with "exclosures" protecting sections of the forest from deer. "They can have a profound effect not only on plants but on other animals."

POWER: *PSE&G Raises Hackles*

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seeing it for himself.

"It's really the health issue, as far as what these emit as high tension wires. There's plenty of documentation in terms of them being hazardous to your health," Mr. Forst said.

According to Helene Forst, some of health risks at hand include childhood leukemia and lymphoma.

Mr. Olson said the assumption that the increase in voltage is dangerous is incorrect, and there is no scientific proof to support the connection between illness and living close to these utility poles.

As for a resolution to the issue, residents heavily pushed for putting the lines underground, suggesting they run the line directly along the railroad tracks from East Hampton to Amagansett.

Running the line underground, said Mr. Olson, can typically cost six to 10 times more than running it above the ground and can be harder to fix when they failed because the place where failure occurs is more difficult to locate.

There will be a follow-up meeting on Thursday, February 6, at 11 a.m. at the East Hampton Village Emergency Services building on Cedar Street.

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