

# Stratford Noise Abatement Committee Meeting

September 23, 2009

## I CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to notice duly posted, Chairman Charlie Bitzer called the meeting of the Noise Abatement Committee to order at 7:05 PM in the lunch room of the Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

## II MEMBERS PRESENT

Charlie Bitzer – Committee Chairman

Walt Rimkunas – Committee Member

Austin Field – Committee Member

Denise Nelson – Committee Member

David Faile – Friends of Sikorsky Airport

## III OLD BUSINESS – There was none.

IV NEW BUSINESS – Charlie and Walter said the leaflets were delivered to all the houses in the airport area. Charlie said there were some leftover leaflets and that he planned to ask the owners of the Lighthouse Deli, the grocery store, and the Chinese restaurant in Lordship if he could leave them there so interested people could pick them up. Charlie said the leaflet distribution prompted five new residents to write written complaints about noise. He said he would contact each of them. On Sunday, September 20, about 9:15 AM, a plane went over that was so loud that windows vibrated and car alarms went off and that you could smell fumes. He wanted to know what the committee could do about that. Walter noted that there are “rogue” planes that take off before 7 AM, and that nearly every Monday morning a plane takes off from Runway 6. Charlie suggested that the committee bargain with the airport to try to cut down on the traffic. Dave noted that the committee has no control over flyovers. Charlie asked Dave if there was anything new about radar at the airport. Dave replied that the radar was supposed to be installed back in 1992 but nothing was ever done. Right now the airport only has a screen that gets a feed from Westchester Airport and an airport on Long Island, which gives the airport a heads-up about incoming planes, but that there is no antenna at Sikorsky. Charlie said there is an annual state safety inspection of the airport runways. Dave said the runways are currently 150 feet wide, but the specifications for planes that use Sikorsky need runways that are only 100 feet wide. As a result, when the

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runways are redone, they will be narrowed by 50 feet and replaced with grass. Charlie said he was concerned that the runways only have 1-2 years left. Walter said eventually jets won't use Sikorsky. Charlie said he is looking for new ways the committee can use to try to cut down on noise. He said he would reply to the new complaints but that he can't do much about them; the committee can't ticket the planes. Walter noted that the committee has no authority. Dave said sometimes planes that use the runways in the middle of the night are transporting organs to area hospitals in an emergency. Charlie said the committee is making progress and that Andy at the airport has been helpful.

The next meeting will be a special meeting held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

V ADJOURNMENT – Charlie adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M., seconded by Denise Nelson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Yacik