



Tweed New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA)

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)

Minutes of October 17, 2023 via Zoom

Attendance

Members in Attendance: Tom Rafter, Rose Chatterton, Linda Hennessey, Michael Jones, Jeremy Nielson, Chuck Licata, Giovanni Zinn, and Carlos Eyzaguirre.

Members absent: Kenneth Dagliere, David Valentino, and Mike Piscitelli.

Others in Attendance: Malena Zanjani and Felipe Suriel.

Minutes

Chairman Rafter opened the meeting at approximately 2pm. The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the meeting on August 15, 2023. Mr. Rafter inquired whether a quorum was required. Ms. Chatterton asked if the quorum should be 50% of members from both East Haven and New Haven combined, or two from each group. Noting she was the only representative from New Haven, she suggested that if the East Haven members agreed, they could consider 50% of the townspeople from both towns as a quorum. Both Ms. Hennessey and Mr. Licata concurred. Ms. Chatterton then motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, and Ms. Hennessey seconded the motion. The minutes from the August 15, 2023, meeting were unanimously adopted without any amendments.

Mr. Rafter began by clarifying the distinction between the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) and the Environmental Assessment (EA), addressing public confusion. He explained that the ESC focuses on everyday operations and the broader goal of maintaining environmental responsibility. In contrast, the EA is directly related to two specific projects and adheres to a strict federal process. A final decision on the EA is pending, and Mr. Rafter anticipates that all outstanding questions will be addressed when the final EA is released.

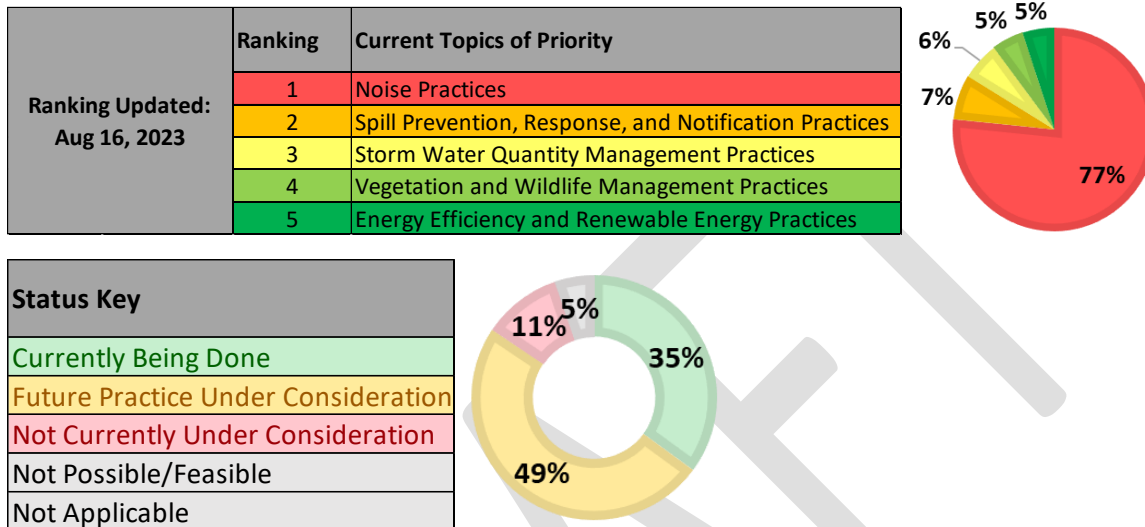
Next, Mr. Rafter presented a spreadsheet detailing survey results compiled by Ms. Zanjani. This survey identifies the five primary topics and subtopics the committee intends to address. To provide context, he reminded attendees that the initial [ACRP document](#) was extensive, encompassing over 20 major topics with hundreds of associated subtopics/tasks.

During the presentation, Mr. Rafter highlighted Ms. Zanjani's approach. She prioritized top survey outcomes and collaborated with Avports to perform a GAAP analysis. This analysis outlined existing measures, future considerations, non-considerations, and non-applicable elements for each item.

Mr. Rafter proceeded to review each entry on the spreadsheet in detail. This spreadsheet will be appended to the meeting minutes for easy reference. Additionally, he explained the key used in relation to the ACRP document and its respective subtopics. Below are some highlights from his presentation:

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Concerning 06.06 - Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices: Implement a Leak Detection Inspection Program for Bulk Storage Containers – the status was updated from "Future Practice Under Consideration" to "Currently Being Done." Mr. Nielson mentioned that they have implemented Veeder-Root for underground storage tanks. This adjustment resulted in a slight change to the percentages. The graphs shown below reflect this change. Mr. Rafter further elaborated that Veeder-Root not only detect leakages but also provide data on tank content, supply valuable information, and produce a comprehensive visual representation.



Regarding 13.10 - Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices: Plant Nitrogen-fixing Vegetation - it falls under the "Not Currently Under Consideration" category. The intent behind this subtopic is to plant specific species that can reduce the need for fertilizers. However, the airport doesn't utilize fertilizers in the first place. Mr. Nielson pointed out that in alignment with the wildlife plan, there are specific mixes of grass and vegetation that are favorable for the airport environment.

Mr. Rafter highlighted that some line items essentially formalize, quantify, and document actions that are already in motion.

As for 23.18 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices: Use Tankless Water Heaters - Mr. Jones suggested assessing the accessibility of natural gas when considering tankless versus electric heaters. Mr. Zinn added that opting for a heat pump electric model, given its superior technology, would be more advantageous.

Wrapping up his overview of the spreadsheet, Mr. Rafter emphasized the objective of shifting more items to the "Currently Being Done" category. He also reiterated that the ACRP document, serving as a guiding reference, will assist in prioritizing tasks.

➔ **Action Item – Ms. Zanjani to share ESC Tracker Spreadsheet to Committee**

Ms. Chatterton raised a query regarding window installations. She mentioned hearing about the installation in eight homes and was curious about the selection process, noting she wasn't aware of any public outreach regarding the windows. Mr. Rafter clarified that this effort is part of an ongoing project named Residential Sound Installation Program Phase 6 (RSIP #6). Contrary to the number she

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mentioned, there are actually nine residences in this phase. Mr. Nielson expanded on this, sharing that RSIP #6 is a segment of a multi-year initiative now in its sixth phase. Over the span of this program, approximately 140 homes will have been addressed. Funded predominantly through federal resources, combined with a local match, this project has spanned over six years, albeit with occasional breaks. The program covers the replacement of windows and doors and installs HVAC systems in eligible residences. Further elaborating, Mr. Rafter mentioned that the initiative emerged from the Part 150 Study, which the EA updates. The Part 150 Study comprises two main facets: noise compatibility and a noise exposure map. The latter has seen updates as part of the EA, and once adopted, the program will advance to another stage, which would be assessed under the NEPA process for sound insulation. Mr. Rafter also emphasized that all affected homeowners have received notifications. Comprehensive details are accessible on the website: thenewhvn.com/sound. He highlighted that any inquiries directed to them have been routed to this website, where individuals can complete a form to stay informed and potentially be considered for future phases.

Ms. Chatterton inquired about the categorization of Noise Walls under "Not Currently Under Consideration." She wondered about the reasoning, especially since such walls could potentially mitigate noise along louder streets, citing Dean Street as an example. She further queried why noise walls weren't being evaluated for regions directly under flight take-off or landing pathways. Mr. Nielson pointed out that wetlands in certain areas might influence such decisions. However, Mr. Rafter suggested revisiting the matter for a more thorough evaluation before completely dismissing the idea. Ms. Chatterton proposed an alternative: rather than having a chain-link fence in certain areas, incorporating a barrier could potentially dampen the noise, especially when planes taxi by for takeoff. She emphasized that she wasn't certain of its effectiveness, but believed it was worth exploring. Mr. Rafter appreciated the input, noting that the committee's primary role is to foster such collaborative brainstorming. He regarded the idea as valid and something worth considering further.

Ms. Chatterton shifted the discussion to real estate disclosures, seeking clarity on whether such disclosures were meant for potential home buyers located within a specific vicinity of the airport. She questioned if realtors were obligated to notify buyers that they would reside within a predetermined radius of the airport. Mr. Rafter affirmed her understanding, mentioning that many other airports follow a similar practice. He highlighted that there are various approaches and models to such disclosures. While they can advocate for and recommend this practice to the legislature, its implementation would have to navigate the legislative process. He noted that these disclosures are typically state-regulated, and he's uncertain if entities like CAA or Bradley currently adopt them.

Ms. Chatterton broached the subject of Spill Protection and Storage Drains. She inquired if "spill protection" referred to a system to collect water from the airport to potentially prevent its flow into storm drains and, subsequently, the cove. Mr. Nielson clarified that there are filters installed within the drains, positioned beneath them, to treat the water before it's discharged. Mr. Zinn added that while filters can be employed during construction activities or other operations, they can clog easily, causing unintended issues. Therefore, their use should be well-considered. He further mentioned his willingness to collaborate with the airport staff to determine which areas, if any, might benefit from such filters. Mr. Rafter raised the point about designing drainage systems equipped with shut-off valves, which can contain water in specific zones if needed. Mr. Zinn confirmed this. Mr. Rafter also emphasized that as they plan to construct a new apron on the opposite side, integrating these considerations into that project would be crucial.

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Ms. Chatterton inquired about the status of pending items, specifically referencing the runway project. She wondered if its progress was contingent upon the FAA's feedback on the EA, or if certain phases could proceed independent of the FAA's stance. Mr. Rafter clarified the advantage of partnering with a private operator. Due to the incomplete status of the EA, they hadn't secured a grant for the runway design. Nevertheless, Avports has chosen to move forward with the project, albeit at their own risk, with the aspiration of securing a grant in the subsequent cycle. They have already initiated the selection process for a consultant and embarked on the runway's design phase.

Ms. Chatterton's following inquiry pertained to the management of pests. She sought clarity on the specifics that this topic/subtopic addressed. Mr. Rafter elaborated that distinct strategies are in place for various pests. The company currently engaged for this purpose avoids the use of RoundUp, opting instead for a proven safer alternative. Mr. Nielson added that they also collaborate with a biologist to identify all potentially affected species through a preliminary study. This examination is a prerequisite before undertaking any vegetation management in the waterway. Expressing concerns about the river's oyster population, Ms. Chatterton inquired further. Mr. Rafter responded by noting an ongoing study investigating PFAS levels in the silversides.

Ms. Hennessy directed a question to Mr. Nielson about the Veeder-Root underground storage tanks, specifically inquiring about their locations. Mr. Nielson responded that at the maintenance facility, there are two underground tanks: one for diesel and the other for gasoline, each with an estimated capacity of 2,000 gallons (later clarified to be 4,000 gallons). Ms. Hennessy then questioned if these tanks were inventoried daily. Mr. Nielson confirmed that a designated staff member maintained logs for this purpose. He mentioned that the tanks had recently been recertified, ensuring their viability for another decade. They've implemented a sump system, and the final improvement they're considering is the installation of a modern pump to enhance emission controls and inventory processes. This upgrade would ensure the system's optimal functioning for the forthcoming years. Mr. Licata inquired if the system was equipped with external alarms. Mr. Nielson affirmed, noting that the system emits an audible alarm if a leak is detected.

Mr. Rafter then surveyed if there were additional questions concerning the spreadsheet. Mr. Licata expressed satisfaction with the initial effort, stating it was a good beginning. With no further inquiries, Mr. Rafter transitioned to the subsequent agenda item.

Mr. Rafter acknowledged that he had intended to make further progress on the draft of the Overall Environmental Policy Statement. After examining the topics and tasks and reviewing the Environmental Policy Statement, he emphasized that this document would define the policy for many initiatives they've recently discussed and aim to implement in the future. The policy should encapsulate planning, development, and construction facets of their routine operations, incorporating elements such as climate resilience and energy efficiency. Mr. Rafter mentioned that he had sourced policy examples from various institutions. He committed to presenting a draft policy for the committee's review at the next meeting. This initial draft would serve as a foundation, which they could refine further before presenting it to the Board. Mr. Rafter emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring using the dashboard from their foundational document to track progress towards their goals. He expressed interest in collaborating with Mr. Jones to tailor their existing policy to better suit the committee's needs.

→ **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to have a draft Environmental Policy Statement for the next meeting**

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The next Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) meeting is scheduled for December 19th at 2:00 PM.

He encouraged the group to share any additional topics or thoughts with the committee for consideration.

Returning to the topic of underground storage tanks, Mr. Nielson revised the capacity to 4,000 gallons. Responding to Ms. Hennessey's query, he confirmed that the tanks undergo annual testing by a third-party, ensuring compliance with local regulations.

Mr. Eyzaguirre pointed out that over 140 homes had already benefited from retrofitting. He recently spoke to a resident undergoing window retrofitting, indicating the program's visibility. He has directed many to the website for eligibility checks. Ms. Chatterton stressed the need for improved community communication, ensuring residents are aware of available resources. Mr. Eyzaguirre mentioned that many queries come through Mayor Elicker's office, which are then formally documented and promptly addressed.

To conclude the meeting, Mr. Rafter initiated a motion to adjourn, which was proposed by Ms. Chatterton and seconded by Mr. Eyzaguirre. With no further discussions on the table, the meeting wrapped up around 2:45 PM.

Action Item Summary

- ➔ **Action Item – Ms. Zanjani to share ESC Tracker Spreadsheet to Committee**
- ➔ **Action Item – Mr. Rafter to have a draft Environmental Policy Statement for the next meeting**

ESC Tracker as of October 2023

Topic #	Subtopic #	Current Priority	Topic	Subtopic	Status
10	10.01	1	Noise Practices	Conduct an Aircraft Noise Study	Currently Being Done
10	10.02	1	Noise Practices	Conduct a Part 150 Study	Currently Being Done
10	10.03	1	Noise Practices	Conduct a Part 161 Study	Not Applicable
10	10.04	1	Noise Practices	Establish a Noise Complaint System	Currently Being Done
10	10.05	1	Noise Practices	Produce a "Fly Quiet" Report	Future Practice Under Consideration
10	10.06	1	Noise Practices	Establish a Community Noise "Roundtable"	Future Practice Under Consideration
10	10.07	1	Noise Practices	Develop and Maintain a Community Noise Resource Website	Currently Being Done
10	10.08	1	Noise Practices	Track Noise Complaints through a Geographic Information System	Future Practice Under Consideration
10	10.09	1	Noise Practices	Construct a Ground Run-up Enclosure	Not Possible/Feasible
10	10.10	1	Noise Practices	Implement a Sound Insulation Program	Currently Being Done
10	10.11	1	Noise Practices	Implement a Preferential Runway Use System	Not Currently Under Consideration
10	10.12	1	Noise Practices	Construct Noise Walls	Not Currently Under Consideration
10	10.13	1	Noise Practices	Identify Aircraft Engine Run-up Areas	Currently Being Done

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10	10.14	1	Noise Practices	Implement a Voluntary Curfew or Voluntary Restraint from Flying	Currently Being Done
10	10.15	1	Noise Practices	Discourage Use of Reverse Thrust	Currently Being Done
10	10.16	1	Noise Practices	Establish Real Estate Disclosures	Future Practice Under Consideration
06	06.01	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Develop a Database of Bulk Storage Containers	Currently Being Done
06	06.02	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Develop and Implement a Storage Tank Management Plan	Future Practice Under Consideration
06	06.03	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Develop an Airport Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Policy	Currently Being Done
06	06.04	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Establish a Spill Reduction Training Program	Currently Being Done
06	06.05	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Establish Airport-wide Procedures	Currently Being Done
06	06.06	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Implement a Leak Detection Inspection Program for Bulk Storage Containers	Currently Being Done
06	06.07	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Isolate Oil Storage Areas	Currently Being Done
06	06.08	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Maintain Spill Control Kits	Currently Being Done
06	06.09	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Construct Regional Secondary Containment	Future Practice Under Consideration
06	06.10	2	Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	Install Spill Protection in Storm Drains	Future Practice Under Consideration
21	21.01	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Increase Storm Water Drainage Capacity in Areas Prone to Flooding	Future Practice Under Consideration
21	21.02	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Use Other Properties for Regional Storm Water Infiltration	Not Currently Under Consideration
21	21.03	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Utilize Pervious Pavement	Currently Being Done
21	21.04	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Reduce the Amount of Impervious Surface	Future Practice Under Consideration
21	21.05	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Develop Storm Water Collection and Rain Harvesting Systems for Treatment Prior to Reuse or Discharge	Future Practice Under Consideration
21	21.06	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Construct Innovative Technologies to Reduce Storm Water Runoff	Future Practice Under Consideration
21	21.07	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Prepare a Preliminary Grading and Drainage Plan	Future Practice Under Consideration
21	21.08	3	Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	Repair Wastewater Conveyance Systems	Future Practice Under Consideration
13	13.01	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Develop an On-site Conservation Area for Species of Concern	Future Practice Under Consideration
13	13.02	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Establish a Tree Bank	Future Practice Under Consideration
13	13.03	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Develop a Wildlife Hazard Management Plan	Currently Being Done
13	13.04	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Choose Non-wildlife Attractant Plants	Currently Being Done
13	13.05	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Conduct Long-term Vegetation Management	Currently Being Done
13	13.06	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Avoid the Creation of Natural Open Water Features on or Near Airfield Sites that Attract Wildlife	Future Practice Under Consideration

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13	13.07	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Install Perforated Underground Drains or Dry Wells	Future Practice Under Consideration
13	13.08	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Manage Vegetation to Maintain Rare and Non-hazardous Wildlife Habitat	Currently Being Done
13	13.09	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Develop and Implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan	Future Practice Under Consideration
13	13.10	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Plant Nitrogen-fixing Vegetation	Not Currently Under Consideration
13	13.11	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Replace Vegetation with Native Species During Construction or Mitigation Projects	Future Practice Under Consideration
13	13.12	4	Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	Join in Partnerships with Environmental Nonprofit Organizations	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.01	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Implement Transit-first Policy for Employees, Passengers and Other Airport Users	Not Currently Under Consideration
23	23.02	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Provide Transit Use Incentives to Employees	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.03	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Encourage Bicycle Commuting and Use for On-airport Transportation	Currently Being Done
23	23.04	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Shut Down Airfield Lighting During Nighttime, Off-peak Hours	Currently Being Done
23	23.05	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Monitor or Inspect Interior and Exterior Lighting System Regularly to Maintain Proper Illumination and Minimize Off-site Impacts	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.06	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Maximize Use of Natural Light and Other Daylighting Strategies	Currently Being Done
23	23.07	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Utilize Energy-efficient Lighting	Currently Being Done
23	23.08	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Develop and Implement an Energy Conservation/Efficiency Plan	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.09	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Work with Airlines to Group Flights in a Given Part of a Concourse during Non-peak Hours	Not Applicable
23	23.10	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Implement Flexible Ticket Counters	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.11	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Develop an Operation and Maintenance Manual	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.12	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Establish Building Systems Commissioning	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.13	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Implement an Energy Management Control System	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.14	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Utilize Prefabricated Equipment	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.15	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Purchase and Install Energy Star Appliances and Computers	Currently Being Done
23	23.16	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Utilize Thermal Energy Storage to Aid with Air Chilling	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.17	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Solar Water Heating	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.18	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Use Tankless Water Heaters	Not Currently Under Consideration
23	23.19	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Enhance Energy Efficiency of Escalators	Not Applicable

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23	23.20	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Track Energy Use	Currently Being Done
23	23.21	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Develop and Implement a Program to Track Progress Achieved in Improving Environmental and Sustainability Performance	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.22	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Track Sustainability Elements in Construction Projects	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.23	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Utilize Contractors with Sustainability Experience	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.24	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Install Solar Energy-powered Roadway Signs or Airfield Lighting	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.25	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Implement Cogeneration	Not Currently Under Consideration
23	23.26	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Purchase Renewable/Alternative Energy Generated Off-site	Currently Being Done
23	23.27	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Conduct a Renewable and Alternative Energy Feasibility Study	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.28	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Install On-site Renewable/Alternative Energy Systems	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.29	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Use Snow as an Energy Source	Not Currently Under Consideration
23	23.30	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Install Small-capacity Solar Power Systems	Future Practice Under Consideration
23	23.31	5	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	Use Solar Trombe Walls for Passive Solar Heating	Future Practice Under Consideration

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