



TWEED
NEW HAVEN
AIRPORT

Tweed New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA)

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)

Minutes of February 20, 2024 via Zoom

Attendance

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

Members absent: Mike Piscitelli, Chuck Licata and David Valentino.

Others in Attendance: Malena Zanjani and Felipe Suriel.

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2023 Meeting
2. Latest Survey Results
3. New Haven EAC Recommendation: Goats
4. Noise Website Demonstration: Burlington
5. Adoption of Environmental Policy
6. Next Meeting – Date, Time, Topics

Minutes

Chairman Rafter called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm. The first agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the December 19th meeting. Ms. Chatterton moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Hennessey seconded. The floor was opened for questions or comments, but there were none.

Mr. Rafter moved to the next agenda item, emphasizing the importance of reassessing the committee's priorities through a recent survey to ensure their alignment with the most pressing environmental concerns. Ms. Zanjani provided a summary of the survey results, highlighting noise practices as the top concern among members, followed by air emissions, planning practices, and several other environmental aspects tied for fourth and fifth place, including public relations, vegetation and wildlife management, deicer runoff, stormwater management, and energy efficiency and renewable energy practices.

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS:

Tom Rafter
Kenneth Dagliere
Linda Hennessey
Chuck Licata
Carlos Eyzaguirre
Michael Jones
Rose Chatterton
Jeremy Nielson
Giovanni Zinn

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Minutes

SURVEY RESULTS:

Topic	Votes
Noise Practices	8
Air Emission Evaluation and Reporting Practices	5
Planning Practices	4
Public Relations Practices	3
Vegetation and Wildlife Management Practices	3
Deicer Runoff Management Practices	3
Storm Water Quantity Management Practices	3
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Practices	3
Mobile Air Emissions Source Practices	2
Stationary Air Emissions Source Practices	2
Administration and Policy Practices	2
Indoor Air Quality Practices	1
Spill Prevention, Response, and Notification Practices	1
Pesticide Application, Certification, and Disposal Practices	1
Underground Storage Tank Practices	1
Construction Storm Water Discharge Practices	1
Industrial Storm Water Discharge Practices	1
Storm Water Quality Protection Practices	1
Construction Air Emissions Source Practices	0
Chemical/Hazardous Material Storage Practices	0
Property Transfer Practices	0
Waste Minimization Practices	0
Hazardous/Universal Wastes, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, and Used Oil Practices	0
Water Conservation Practices	0

Mr. Rafter underscored the survey's role as a guiding tool to keep the committee's efforts on track, with a particular focus on the most critical issues like noise and air quality, which would be discussed further in subsequent meetings. The conversation then shifted towards specific concerns raised by Ms. Chatterton regarding the categorization of air quality issues in the survey and the impact of fumes at street level, especially in proximity to the airport. She shared personal anecdotes from residents affected by low air pressure and fumes.

In response, Mr. Rafter clarified that the survey's categories included subtopics to cover various aspects of air quality, and he assured further examination of these concerns, emphasizing the need for empirical data to inform potential solutions. The discussion also touched on the exploration of measures like barriers to mitigate the impact of fumes, with Mr. Rafter indicating ongoing efforts to install air quality monitors in collaboration with the city for more accurate assessments.

The exchange highlighted the committee's commitment to addressing environmental challenges at the airport, balancing empirical data with community feedback to guide their actions effectively.

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) Minutes

Mr. Rafter introduced discussion on the innovative recommendation from the New Haven Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to employ goats for vegetation control at the airport. Despite its novelty and potential challenges, such as the tendency of goats wandering, the idea is being explored for its environmental benefits. Mr. Rafter and Mr. Nielson are considering a pilot area to test this eco-friendly approach, noting the feasibility of renting goats for the task.

Following this, Mr. Jones presented plans to overhaul the airport's noise management communication tools. Highlighting the outdated nature of the current TweedNoise.com website, Mr. Jones introduced a more modern and engaging model based on Burlington, Vermont's noise program website: BTVSound.com. The new platform aims to enhance community engagement and provide comprehensive information on noise mitigation efforts, eligibility for sound insulation programs, and noise exposure maps. The anticipated launch is set for April, with a development period of about 60 days. This initiative reflects the committee's priority to address noise concerns, aligning with the feedback received from the community and committee members.

Mr. Rafter further clarified the ongoing research into the airport's noise compatibility program, emphasizing the commitment to comply with regulatory requirements and exploring updates as part of the next phase of the sound insulation program. The discussion also covered operational aspects of addressing community inquiries about noise mitigation measures, with Mr. Rafter and Mr. Jones outlining the process of directing queries to them for resolution.

Mr. Rafter brought forward the matter of adopting an environmental policy, which had been discussed in previous sessions. He expressed his intention to present this policy at the upcoming Board Meeting in March, pending any objections from the ESC members. After reading the draft policy aloud, Mr. Rafter proposed a plan to proceed with including the policy on the March Board agenda, provided there were no objections prior to that time. The committee members raised no objections to this plan.

Mr. Rafter then announced the next meeting date, scheduled for April 16th at 2:00 PM. He moved to conclude the meeting, receiving a motion for adjournment from Ms. Chatterton, seconded by Ms. Hennessey. The meeting was unanimously agreed to be adjourned and officially ended at approximately 2:50 PM.

Action Items

- ***Action Item – Mr. Rafter to update committee on air quality monitoring initiatives at next meeting.***
- ***Action Item – Mr. Rafter and Mr. Nielson will explore the feasibility of using goats for vegetation control at the airport, including identifying a test area.***
- ***Action Item – Mr. Jones will lead the development of a new, more engaging noise management website, aiming for a launch in April.***
- ***Action Item – Mr. Rafter will include the environmental policy in the next month's board meeting agenda, pending no objections from the committee members.***