

AMA District I Reference Doc. 09205

TYPE: Flying Site Acquisition

AGENCY: Selectmen – Tyngsboro, MA.

ISSUES: AMA safety code enforcement, safety record, risk mitigation, preventing overflying, passive use, and current laws for model aircraft



Bob Brown
President

August 9, 2015

Gary Fitch
Executive Vice President

Honorable Selectmen Richard D. Reault
rresult@tyngsboroughma.gov

Keith Sessions
Chief Financial Officer

Re: Hunter Property Model Aircraft Flying

Andrew Argenio
District I V.P.
CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Dear Selectmen Reault,

Eric Williams
District II V.P.
NJ, NY, Europe

I write today with respect to Mr. Ken Pappas and his efforts on behalf of the River Bend Flyers, an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) club, to seek approval for model aircraft flying on the town owned Hunter property.

Mark Radcliff
District III V.P.
OH, PA, WV

My name is Andrew Argenio and I am an AMA national executive board member and district vice president representing AMA members and clubs in the New England aeromodelling community.

Jay March
District IV V.P.
DE, DC, MD, NC, VA

Mr. Pappas asked if I would attend the August 10 Tyngsboro Board of Selectmen meeting to address safety concerns of model aircraft flying at the Hunter property.

Kris Dixon
District V V.P.
AL, FL, GA, MS, PR, SC,
TN, VI

As you may know, I have been aiding Mr. Pappas in providing the Tyngsboro Conservation Commission with AMA documents containing a summary of AMA's national safety code and supplemental information on flight operational requirements.

Randy Cameron
District VI V.P.
KY, IL, IN, MO

The AMA has 177,000 members, 2,450 flying clubs and a 79 year history of recognized excellence in safe model aircraft flying that ensures for the safety of people, property, structures and the environment.

Tim Jesky
District VII V.P.
IA, MI, MN, WI

In 2012 the US government passed a bill (Public Law 112-95 Sec. 336) that exempted the AMA from the FAA rule making process and allowed us to operate under our own safety programming in recognition of AMA's exemplary record of safety.

Mark Johnston
District VIII V.P.
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

I must apologize for not writing sooner, but I was under the impression from that there were just some issues to clear up on safety, until today when I watched two hours of video from the Tyngsboro Selectmen and Commission meetings on July 13 and 14 and realized there were a number of other items to address.

Jim Tiller
District IX V.P.
CO, KS, NE, ND, SD, WY

Lawrence Tougas
District X V.P.
AZ, CA, GU, HI, NV, UT

Regardless of how this "open space" land use request turns out, I must express my appreciation for the time and efforts that are being put forth by each of the Selectmen Board and Conservation Commission members on trying to fairly determine whether the model aircraft flying would substantially harm or interfere with Parlee Farm's

Chuck Bower
District XI V.P.
AK, ID, MT, OR, WA

business operation or just amount to a trivial annoyance and inconsequential risk from the model aircraft flying. You are all a credit to the citizenry you serve so well.

Most prospective properties for model aircraft flying can only accommodate certain types of model aircraft and flying activities. Consideration for reducing risks and annoyance usually involves limiting flying to smaller aircraft and power systems and/or specific days and times for flying.

I have attached a PDF documents of this email as “Board Member Letter” and a PDF “Hunter Concerns Response” explaining how the AMA may address some of the concerns and questions from the July 13 meeting including AMA enforcement, safety record, risk mitigation, preventing overflying, passive use, and current laws for model aircraft flying.

It’s my understanding that the Hunter property model aircraft agenda item has been reschedule to August 24. Please confirm the date so I can attend the meeting and make myself available to answer any questions with regard to the concerns being expressed.

Thanks again, for all the consideration devoted to the modelers request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Argenio".

Andrew Argenio
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