

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
7150 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, ROOM 201
EAST FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK
APRIL 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Bodenmiller at 7:02p.m. Vice-Chairman Vincent Bologna, Jr, and Commission Members Stella Barbera and Richard Grant were present.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2025 and FEBRUARY 2026

Ms. Barbera made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes which was seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio suggested the Agenda be changed to hold a vote to appoint a RAC Chairman and Vice-Chairman since there was no quorum to do so in February. Chairman Bodenmiller agreed. Mr. Ceglio asked if there was a motion to appoint a Chairman. Mr. Bologna motioned to appoint Mr. Bodenmiller, seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Ceglio asked if there was a motion to appoint a Vice-Chairman. Ms. Barbera motioned to appoint Mr. Bologna, seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, and FINANCIAL REPORTS for JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2026

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the Operations Reports:

- January Total Operations reported by FAA increased 14.0% over last year. Landings reported by Airport Operations increased by 13.7% over last year. Single-engine aircraft operations increased 22.7%, jet operations increased 3.5%, and single-engine Touch & Go's were up 7.4%. Passenger volume decreased 35.8% and Based aircraft fell 2.5%.
- February Total Operations reported by FAA decreased 6.8% from last year. Landings reported by Airport Operations decreased 3.3% from last year. Single-engine aircraft operations increased 9.2%, jet operations decreased 9.0%, and single-engine Touch & Go's were down 18.3%. Passenger volume decreased 2.1% and Based aircraft fell 3.0%.

Mr. Lauth discussed the Aircraft Complaint Reports:

- In January, 294 complaints were filed from 5 households, compared to 33 complaints from 8 households last year. It was noted that the majority of complaints were received from two households. Most complaints were related to multi/single-engine aircraft and daytime operations and came from areas north and southwest of the airport. Touch and Go operations and arrivals on Runway 19 accounted for most of the complaints. Transient aircraft accounted for 130 complaints, Based aircraft for 82, and 82 were reported as 'General/Unknown'.
- In February, 236 complaints were filed from 8 households, compared to 52 complaints from 9 households last year. The majority of complaints were related to multi/single-engine aircraft and daytime operations and came from areas north and southwest of the airport. The majority of complaints related to arrivals on Runways 19 and

32, and complaints reported as 'General/Unknown'. Transient aircraft accounted for 101 complaints, Based aircraft for 90, and 45 were reported as 'General/Unknown'

Mr. Lauth discussed the Financial Reports:

- January Revenue on an Accrual Basis was unfavorable \$207,727.35 due to rent for 5 parcels to be billed in February. Fees for License Fees, Landings, and Fuel Flowage were favorable. January expenses were favorable by \$18,220.38. Utilities Fees were higher than anticipated. January Actual Expenses exceeded Actual Revenue by 28,811.22.
- February Revenue on an Accrual Basis was favorable by \$8,976.92. February Expenses were unfavorable by \$25,351.92. Expenses for Utilities and Airport Maintenance were higher than budgeted. Overall, Actual Revenue exceeded Actual Expenses by \$195,884.75.

Ms. Barbera asked for a status on occupants for the former Molloy building. Mr. Ceglio stated a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the building is still being worked on but it should be issued by June 2026.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Lauth reported the following:

- FAA Team Safety Seminar, March 14th** - FAA hosted seminar for pilots and instructors at the Main Terminal.
- Atlantic Aviation Film Shoot – CIA/FBI series, March 25th- 26th** – Held on ramp at Hangar 5.
- ARFF Basic Training, FRG Ops Coordinators, Kentucky** – New Operations personnel attended ARFF training in Lexington KY.
- Site Visit for Design of New ARFF Facility-March 11th** - New facility is being designed to house ARFF vehicles and equipment.
- Global Entry Event, March 28th** – Event held at Main Terminal hosted by US Customs to process applicants and conduct interviews.
- American Airpower Museum Easter Egg Hunt, March 28th**
- C-47 Flight Experience, April 11th** – flights are available to public by contacting American Airpower Museum.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Mr. Ceglio reported the following:

- Stratosphere 5-Parcel Development Project:** SomeraRoad Inc. (SR) purchased Stratosphere's lease in February. They will continue the development of the 5 parcels in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (EA) that was approved in February 2023 and the RFP that was issued. SR appears to be very aggressive in getting the projects done. When we receive development plans for the buildings, they will be brought to the RAC and Working Group for review. SR is aware that the RAC wants to be included in communications about the development plans.
- Runway 1/19 Pavement Resurfacing Project:** The construction schedule has been submitted to NYSDOT for review. The project will require Runway 1/19 to be closed. We are hoping to start the project after July 4th and the Air Show and we expect that Runway 1/19 will be closed from mid-July through end of November. This project also includes reconstruction of the Main Terminal ramp which is the original ramp from the 1980s. Additionally, an area of the Vehicle Service Road near TTM Technologies will be relocated outside of the Runway Safety Area.

Chairman Bodenmiller informed attendees and Civic groups that they will be kept informed about the runway closure for the duration of the project and asked for their understanding because the project is needed to ensure the safety of the aircraft. Mr. Lauth added that it has been 25 years since Runway 1/19 was last re-paved.

3. **Taxiway D Resurfacing Project Bid-** An FAA grant was approved for the resurface design of Taxiway Delta which has not been paved in 50 years. The project was put out to bid. We are in the process of reviewing the four bids received and getting a construction grant from FAA. Construction is estimated to begin in Spring 2027.
4. **FAA Grant Opportunity / Vehicle Tracking Equipment-** FAA offered a grant opportunity to the Airport to outfit up to 30 vehicles with a ground tracking system. We are preparing a grant application and estimate receiving the grant by end of September.
5. **2023 NYSAir 99 Grant Update- Airport Snow Broom Procurement-** A new snow broom with a blower attachment is being procured through a State grant and we anticipate taking delivery by the end of 2026.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Seven (7) individuals commented.

Ms. Barbera made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m. The next RAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:
Anthony C. Ceglio on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
April 14, 2026

Ms. Nancy Schliwka of the Woodland Civic Association asked to know the reason for the increase in helicopter operations. Mr. Ceglio explained that helicopters were being used to shuttle off-shore wind farm employees to and from the site several times a week. Mr. Lauth said the operations will continue through June but may have their contract renewed.

Dr. George Blednick, a Melville resident, stated he has lived in the West Hills (Rollingwood) section of Melville for 47 years. He has noticed in the last 3 years, there are small aircraft flying over his home 250-300 times a day. The noise has changed the nature of his relationship with his house and he feels a lot of frustration. It has dramatically changed the quality of his life in his house. He provided a printout of a screenshot from the Flightradar24 app that shows a pattern of aircraft flying over and near his home. He said that flight patterns used to fly over the cemeteries but that changed 3 years ago and now the planes are flying directly over his home. Chairman Bodenmiller asked for some time to look into the information and the Airport may invite him to have a discussion about it and address his concerns.

Mr. Michael Canale, a Farmingdale resident, stated that there isn't any number of noise complaints that will yield any change at all. He asked if the Airport is legally obligated to take these noise complaints. It seems like you would be legally obligated to and that's why I'm doing it. There's nothing that can be done apparently because nothing is happening. Why do you bother talking about it? Mr. Lauth answered that the Airport wants to be aware of what's happening around the community. Mr. Canale said it's 'all feel good talk'. Your letters say you're going to aggressively look at this but it's all junk. You're supposed to take noise level measurements from the airport. When's that last time you did that? Mr. Ceglio answered that there was a Noise Exposure Map done a few years ago that is updated periodically. If you want information about it, I can send it to you; it is also posted on the Airport Website ([Noise & Environment – Republic Airport](#)). Mr. Canale said he just wants the noise to stop and he's going to make it his life's mission to make you miserable to some degree. I'm going to make it hard for you to get a grant. Unfortunately, Governor Hochul doesn't answer. Senator Martinez, who apparently is in your pocket, because she changed something in the Transportation Law to help the Airport. Mr. Canale said that Mr. Ceglio's being a part of the RAC Commission sounds like a crazy conflict of interest. He said the Commission is supposed to have nine people but there are only four. Mr. Bodenmiller stated that the Airport has no control of aircraft in the sky and where they choose to fly or where it's safe to fly. That falls under FAA. Mr. Ceglio said the Airport discusses complaints with the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) and the Recommended Noise Abatement procedures. We've gone over this with them many times. The ATCT controls traffic in the best interest of aircraft safety. Moving aircraft from east to west is due to safety concerns of conflicting traffic.

Ms. Nancy Cypser, President of the Woodland Civic Association, asked if they should be complaining directly to FAA. Mr. Ceglio said the FAA Office of Environment and Energy Noise Division has information on their website at https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/ae/noise and an FAA Noise Portal can be found at https://ancir.faa.gov/ancir?id=ancir_sc_cat_item&sys_id=6149ade187a1f550b0d987b9cebb357e.

Mr. Canale asked to know what an 'operation' is and how much is charged for a landing fee. Mr. Lauth answered that an aircraft taking off and landing counts as one operation. Mr. Ceglio stated the landing fee is determined by the type of aircraft.

Dr. Blednick asked if the Airport has a 'meaningful' liaison with FAA who would listen to feedback from the local residents. Mr. Ceglie stated the Airport has a good relationship with the ATCT Manager. We've discussed the noise complaints with him. The ATCT is controlling traffic in the interest of safety, based on the number of aircraft that come in and where they are coming in from. There is a north practice area and a south practice area; arrivals from those areas get integrated into the traffic pattern by ATC at Republic Airport in the safest way possible.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo of the Woodland Civic Association addressed Mr. Canale and suggested he contact US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office because they are on a federal level.

Dr. Joan Blednick, a Melville resident, asked if an Air Traffic Controller can come to a meeting. Mr. Bodenmiller said they have been asked and we will invite them again. At our level, the Commission can help bridge the gap between the State and the Federal government.

Mr. Canale asked to know who filed the lawsuit to change Transportation Law 402 which opened the airport after 11:00pm until 7:00am. Ms. Jessica Santangelo said there are airports with limitations and this airport used to be one of them. The lawsuit was filed in the 1990s.

Ms. Cypser asked if the original Stratosphere RFP allows for transfer of responsibility. Mr. Ceglie stated the language in the lease allows for assignment, and lease information can be obtained through the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) process by visiting <https://www.dot.ny.gov/main/foil-form-challenge>.

Ms. Cypser asked what level of vetting was done on SomeraRoad to be certain that they can build out this contract. Mr. Ceglie stated SomeraRoad was vetted by NYSDOT and the Office of State Controller. Their backgrounds were checked and they were deemed responsible.

Ms. Cypser asked if SomeraRoad intends to develop the parcels exactly like Stratosphere's plans. If not, what is the process for them to make changes? Mr. Ceglie said the plans have not changed from the Environmental Assessment (EA) approved the FAA in February 2023. To make changes, they would have to submit a request to NYSDOT. We would review it and also discuss it with the RAC and the Working Group for their comments.

Mr. Mark Goldberg, Echo tenant, thanked Mr. Lauth and the Airport Operations staff for plowing out his plane after a snow storm this winter. He asked to know if there are any changes planned for Echo ramp. Mr. Ceglie said no approved plans to change the Echo from the 2023 FAA approve EA. Modern Aviation has taken over the FBO services on Echo ramp and are allowing Echo tenants to use the restrooms inside the temporary FBO building. Mr. Ceglie also reminded attendees that a second Rates and Charges meeting will be held on April 30th, 2026 in the Main Terminal Lobby at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.