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Publication: The Southampton Press

Oct 21, 2016 9:11 AM

# Brundige To Return As East Hampton Airport Manager



(/photo-gallery/article.cfm/499264#129229)

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**UPDATED** Oct 25, 2016 10:01 AM

**By Michael Wright**

East Hampton Town terminated the manager of East Hampton Airport on Thursday night and re-hired former longtime airport manager Jim Brundige to, once again, take the reins, at least temporarily.

The Board voted unanimously to terminate Jemille Charlton, who has been the provisional manager of the airport since Mr. Brundige left two years ago, and bring Mr. Brundige back as interim airport director through the end of 2017 while the board searches for someone to take over the airport on a permanent basis.

The move to terminate the popular Mr. Charlton was met with lament and criticism from some airport users.

"The pilot community out here objects to his termination," said pilot Catherine Sly on Thursday. "We believe he is a very qualified, very respected individual who has done a bang up job for this airport."

Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell said little about the

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reasons behind Mr. Charlton's termination, as is policy for municipalities in discussing personnel issues.

"We hired him, and it hasn't worked out," Mr. Cantwell said. "It's inappropriate for us to discuss history, performance and other issues with respect to an individual employee. It's not fair to whoever that employee is."

Mr. Brundige managed the airport from 2005 through 2014, when he left to do private consulting. He will take over the management of the airport again on November 1, and serve until at least December 31, 2017. He will be paid a salary of \$92,000 per year.

Mr. Brundige said this week he has not decided if he would apply for the permanent manager's job.

In the meantime he said he's ready to pick up the numerous capital projects the town has in the pipeline at the airport, including a \$1 million perimeter fence around the entire property that the Town Board approved borrowing to fund last week, a new \$1 million fuel storage facility, and completion of a taxiway alongside the airport's main runways.

"I'm here to push these projects forward and see them to completion," Mr. Brundige said Monday.



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Since the Press believes that these "personnel" matters are actually public information, ie, Southampton School District, maybe the press can file a FOIL to find out what happened to Mr. Charlton, who seems from the article to have been an effective manager.

By Rickenbacker (255 (/news/memberComments.cfm/25747)), Southampton on Oct 21, 16 11:55 AM

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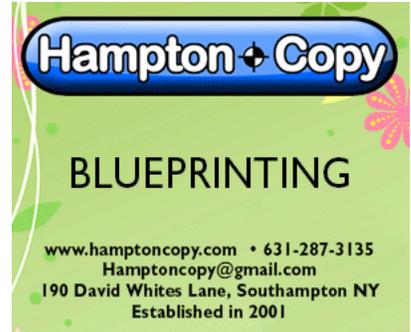


You could not give me a house in the Town of East Hampton! The Town and Village seem to always make knee Jerk reactions to complaints by a few. The east end has become a place where retired people have nothing better to do than complain about things. This used to be a place where rules were lax and people enjoyed life comfortably. Now you can't walk on the beach because the birds are nesting. The kids can't play in the woods on dirt bikes because they will destroy the woods. Fisherman can't fish ...more

By deolveo (149 (/news/memberComments.cfm/6803)), Bridgehampton on Oct 21, 16 4:37 PM



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Good news! Nobody is offering you a house. Stay in Bridge.

By harbor (400 (/news/memberComments.cfm/9913)), East Hampton on Oct 21, 16 4:44 PM

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And Deelove have you noticed how civil and mature they are... Harbor is a perfect example.

By localEH (395 (/news/memberComments.cfm/14198)), East Hampton on Oct 21, 16 6:19 PM

3 members liked this comment

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So move, but stop complaining.

By greenjeans (2 (/news/memberComments.cfm/29370)), hampton bays on Oct 27, 16 12:51 PM

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Perhaps, given the opportunity, the Town Board will seek a manager capable of respect for the community that pays him. Neither of the two managers mentioned in this story have been, either publicly or privately.

By Amelia Airport (48 (/news/memberComments.cfm/18800)), East Hampton on Oct 21, 16 4:39 PM

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The community highly respects both of the airport's managers - they are good people doing a hard job. It's just you 10 airport haters that don't like them, and your only reason has nothing to do with their qualifications, it's just more of your never ending complaining about hating all things aviation related.

By localEH (395 (/news/memberComments.cfm/14198)), East Hampton on Oct 21, 16 6:16 PM

1 member liked this comment

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Right pal. It must be nice to speak for the community. How is it you got the job?

Most of the community has no idea who runs the airport but they all seem to know it's loud, dangerous and out of control. If you'll read what I wrote I was referring to the Airport manager's respect for the community, not vice-versa.

Bad manager number one stole taxpayer money with a former town councilman when they took an unannounced junket to DC to lobby the FAA for money. They did it on the taxpayer's ...more

By Amelia Airport (48 (/news/memberComments.cfm/18800)), East Hampton on Oct 21, 16 6:33 PM

1 member liked this comment

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Let's see, you just publicly said Mr. Brundige stole money and committed theft. That's something call defamation per se, meaning Mr. Brundige can bring suit against you and damages are automatic. How about you post your real name so he can address your allegations directly.

As for your claims against Mr. Charlton, there was no need to call the police for a wheels up landing (not a crash) when there wasn't severe damage to the plane, no one hurt, no fire, and no big deal. What were the police ...more

By localEH (395 (/news/memberComments.cfm/14198)), East Hampton on Oct 21, 16 7:52 PM

6 members liked this comment

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Crash landing is a pretty vague term, and when such an event takes place at an airport and no third party property is damaged it is not required to be reported to any police agency, only the FAA. The Town may have policies and guidelines requiring such police notifications, but there are none at the Federal level.

By Funbeer (261 (/news/memberComments.cfm/4185)), Southampton on Oct 22, 16 8:08 PM

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Whatever this guy did it must have been REALLY bad to top what Brundige did. This airport needs serious help and Brundige is definitely not the answer. It's dangerous there.

By Helicopter Tommy (9 (/news/memberComments.cfm/48260)), Sag Harbor on Oct 21, 16 7:32 PM

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I've known Jemille for quite a while. He's an honest stand up guy, not to mention a decorated Veteran.

If you don't like the airport don't buy a house near one.

I'm getting really sick of these NIMBY Interlopers from up island or the city coming out here and protesting everything. Airports, grocery stores etc.

Shame on you, NIMBY Interlopers.

By Draggerman (903 (/news/memberComments.cfm/1097)), Southampton on Oct 22, 16 10:01 AM

5 members liked this comment

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I second that: I did work for the airport and Jemille was a class act.

By Nukiepool (118 (/news/memberComments.cfm/42651)), Southampton on Oct 24, 16 12:56 AM



1 member liked this comment

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I fully agree with Draggerman.

By Elliot (250 (/news/memberComments.cfm/4915)), sag harbor on Oct 27, 16 12:33 PM

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Bring back another retired employee and at over 90,000???Mr Charlton made about 70,000. What the hell? Mr Charlton is a military man. He runs a tight ship,he knows his business. That is, if he is given the proper staffing. Taxpayers should ask more questions here. Why? why? why? The rich are taking over everything you hold dear EH residents.

By Woods woman (135 (/news/memberComments.cfm/36756)), East hampton on Oct 23, 16 11:15 PM

3 members liked this comment

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So the underpaid puppet would not kneel to the puppeteers' (aka the town board) demands and got fired because he is pro-airport and doesn't want to close it???? The resolution 2014-1122 appointed the airport director at \$63K per year on 9/4/14 but why is that not working? Oh, sorry, he has a brain and tries to talk common sense to the town board. What is the town boards' answer? "Let's fire him and pay someone else \$92k+ per year to pander to the spineless cowards of the Board that want to close ...more

By kevinlocal (47 (/news/memberComments.cfm/43965)), wainscott on Oct 23, 16 11:30 PM

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Nothing more to see here folks.

More of the same.

By Draggerman (903 (/news/memberComments.cfm/1097)), Southampton on Oct 24, 16 11:30 PM

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Close the airport down forever. Yesterday.

By even flow (833 (/news/memberComments.cfm/51789)), East Hampton on Oct 25, 16 2:24 AM

1 member liked this comment

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