



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Richard Tomaselli, witness

When: July 11, 2017

RE: ERA17FA226, Remsen, NY

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Tomaselli stated that he was riding his bicycle on Commons Road when he first observed the accident airplane. He said the airplane was approaching him from the east. Mr. Tomasselli said the airplane made a steep right turn followed by a steep left turn to get lined up on the final approach path for the runway. The airplane straightened out as it descended and appeared to be on a normal approach path (he could not recall the airplane's ground speed), the wings were level, when it suddenly nosed over into a hayfield from a height of about 75 ft above the ground. He did not see the airplane rotate as it descended but figure it probably did because it came to rest in the opposite direction of travel. Mr. Tomaselli said he had lost site of the airplane for a brief second due to the rolling terrain right before it hit the ground, so it may have rotated during that time. He said the airplane's engine was running normally the entire time and right up until impact. Mr. Tomasselli said he was in shock, but got off his bike and ran over to the airplane. He saw that the pilot had a serious injury to his head and was slumped over in the right seat and still breathing. Mr. Tomasselli then waved down two men who were mowing the hayfield. They came over to the airplane and told Mr. Tomaselli to call 911, who in turn, went back to his bike to get his cell phone. Mr. Tomaselli then call 911 and waited for the New York State Police to arrive. He said EMS and the New York State Police were on-scene in about 10 minutes.

Mr. Tomaselli said that he did not see or hear anything unusual with the airplane or engine prior to it nosing over. He said the weather was "beautiful" that afternoon and though he did not recall what the wind direction or speed was that day, he did not recall it being windy.

Leah D. Read

Sr. Air Safety Investigator

National Transportation Safety Board