

Town of Coventry
Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee
Regular Meeting
Thursday Feb 20, 2025
6:30 PM
Conference Room B, 1712 Main Street
Zoom Meeting Link Below

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

2. Approval Of Minutes

A. Minutes, January 16, 2025

Documents:

[FSHRSC MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 16.PDF](#)

3. Review Of Additional Requested Ordinances

Documents:

[AVON FIREARMS ORDINANCE.PDF](#)
[CROMWELL ORDINANCE.PDF](#)
[HARTFORD ORDINANCE.PDF](#)
[MIDDLETOWN ORDINANCE.PDF](#)
[SOUTH WINDSOR ORDINANCE.PDF](#)

4. Discussion Of Preferred Solutions To Identified Problems

Documents:

[IDENTIFIED POLICIES FROM REVIEWED ORDINANCES.PDF](#)

5. Discussion Of A Report To The Town Council Regarding Study Progress

6. Other Business

7. Adjournment

Topic: Firearms Safety- Home Shooting Range Comm.

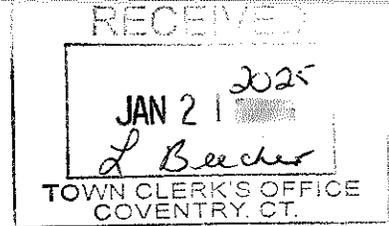
Time: Feb 20, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89213329959?pwd=IFoAGOsRPj9E9L1zIEkhqbQp5z92a0.1>

Meeting ID: 892 1332 9959

Passcode: 772



**Town of Coventry
Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 16, 2025**

1. Call To Order, Roll Call:

By: Murray Time: 6:32 p.m. Place: Conference Room B & Zoom

		PRESENT	ABSENT
REGULAR MEMBERS:	Brian Murray, Chairperson	X	
	Brittany Debiase-Franco, Vice-Chairperson		X
	Dudley Brand	X	
	Kenneth Stein	X	
	Carolyn Batz	X	
STAFF:	Jana Roberson, Director of Planning & Dev't.	X	
	Chief of Police Eric Peterson		X

Both Debiase-Franco and Chief Peterson provided notice for their absence.

Also present: Town Manager James Drumm and Special Projects Coordinator Alex Taylor.

2. Approval Of Minutes:

A. Minutes, November 7, 2024:

Motion: I move to accept the November 7th, 2024, Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee Meeting Minutes.

By: Brand Second: Stein

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

3. Discussion of Shooting Range Best Practices:

It was noted that this presentation was a great educational tool. It was suggested to have this put into PowerPoint presentation format for a public education presentation later down the line. Brand explained that anyone who has the desire to purchase a firearm and use it on their property should be licensed. The licensing process comes with its own training through an NRA certified course.

The importance of distance and being a good neighbor was highlighted as an important element of having a shooting range whether at a home or commercial. Including being mindful of time of day, number of rounds shot/shooting intensity, and duration of shooting.

Stein also added that having the NRA textbook in the library may be a good resource for homeowners looking into developing a home range or simply to educate themselves on firearm safety. Stein informed that the NRA has signs available for purchase on their website for homeowners to use on their home ranges to signal an active shooting zone.

4. Review of Comparable Municipal Ordinances:

Special Projects Coordinator Alex Taylor compiled a few firearm ordinances from towns in the state comparable to Coventry. Below are highlights of those ordinances for discharge of firearms.

Tolland:

- No minors under the age of 16 to discharge a firearm.
- No outdoor discharge within 250 ft of other outdoor buildings from location, or across from any road, street, or highway unless a part of the shooter's property, in conjunction with a military funeral, or a fish and game/gun club.
- Must be property owner or have permission of property owner (on hand).
- Violation of ordinance results in a fine of \$100 per day, per instance.
- Exception of reasonable self-defense.

Newtown: (Most robust of all ordinances reviewed with clear definitions.)

- Does not apply to hunting, peace officers, fish and game/gun clubs, or blanks.
- Exceptions for self-defense, animal control, or parade purposes.
- Must be property owner or have permission of property owner (on hand).
- Follow all federal and state/local laws.
- Must be licensed/permitted or supervised by someone who is.
- Cannot discharge more than 1 fire arm at a time.
- Time restrictions- Not before 8 am or after sunset.
- Notify local Police Department 15 minutes prior to shooting, and 4-hr shooting duration time limit.
- Firing to be directed at natural or man-made backstop, with minimum of 10 feet height above intended target.
- Discharge at the direction of a building occupied by people or domestic animals.
- Targets with induced secondary reaction prohibited.
- Firearm discharge on Town Property or from ½ mile of a school during school hours is prohibited.
- Violation of ordinance is \$99 fine per offense.

Additional concerns to consider for regulations are limiting rounds fired per hour, to lower the intensity of shooting as this seems to be a concern among neighbors.

6. Discussion of Acceptable Limits on Noise:

It was noted that noise seemed to be one of the larger driving factors in phone calls received. Noise levels are not often covered in ordinances for firearms, in terms of decibels. Additionally, an ordinance will not solve all cases but it can limit the time of day, length of shooting, frequency, etc.

It was asked if this would open to have a town wide ordinance as well. Drumm explained that it would, and the town would need to look at noise for other items. Drumm added that this committee could provide a recommendation to the Town Council in terms of a fire arms ordinance, and suggests the Town Council develop something to address noise complaints. However, the firearms ordinance could include constraints on noise for holidays and/or time of day.

It was also discussed that a Home Shooting Range would need to be clearly defined, and whether or not it includes the sighting of rifles, which generally takes minimal time and firing.

7. Proposed Schedule of Meetings, 2025:

The meeting schedule only goes to July 2025, since the committees charge specified that this committee only be active for 9 months from the time it was established. However, special meetings can be called in that time frame if needed. Additionally, the life of the committee would need to be extended but the Committee would need to give notice by their June meeting for the Town Council to change the charge.

Motion: I move to approve the proposed schedule of meetings for 2025.

By: Stein

Second: Brand

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

8. Other Business:

None

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by,

Nicole Archambault

Sec. 36-1. Discharge of firearms; violation and penalties.

- (a) No minor under 16 years of age, shall discharge any firearm, air rifle or air pistol within the limits of the Town, unless such discharge shall be in the presence and under the supervision of the parent or legal guardian of such minor, or a qualified instructor on an authorized range.
- (b) Unless otherwise permitted by law, no person shall discharge any firearm outdoors and within 500 feet of any building situated anywhere in the Town, except as to buildings on his own land or on land used in conjunction with a duly organized rifle, fish and game, or gun club, or in an area approved by the Chief of Police.
- (c) A landowner may extend to others by written consent, the right to use his property for hunting, target practice or other purposes requiring the use of firearms.
- (d) Any person violating any provision of this section, or a parent or legal guardian permitting violation by a minor less than 16 years of age, shall be fined not less than \$40.00 and not more than \$100.00. Each day such violation shall continue after notice to the owner may be deemed a separate offense.

(Ord. No. 11, § 1)

State law reference(s)—Penalty for ordinance violations, G.S. § 7-148(c)(10)(A); unlawful discharge of firearms, G.S. § 53-204.

Chapter 128

FIREARMS

§ 128-1.	Discharge restrictions.	§ 128-4.	Applicability.
§ 128-2.	Permits.	§ 128-5.	Provisions subject to statute.
§ 128-3.	Violations and penalties.	§ 128-6.	Purpose.

[HISTORY: Adopted by Special Town Meeting of the Town of Cromwell 12-10-1957; amended in its entirety by the Board of Selectmen 2-12-2003. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Civil emergencies — See Ch. 110.

Fireworks — See Ch. 134.

§ 128-1. Discharge restrictions.

It shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm in the Town of Cromwell without first obtaining a permit from the Chief of Police, unless sanctioned by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection¹ or unless discharged as a member of an Official Honor Guard.

- A. The discharge of any firearm in the Town of Cromwell by a person under the age of 18 years, except under proper supervision, is prohibited.
- B. The discharge of any firearm within 500 feet of any building in the Town of Cromwell is prohibited.

§ 128-2. Permits.

Permits for the discharge of firearms shall be issued by the Chief of Police free of charge for any lawful purpose. Permits shall be valid for one year.

§ 128-3. Violations and penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$99.

§ 128-4. Applicability.

This chapter shall not apply to any person discharging firearms on an established target practice range of an organized rifle, gun or hunting club or on any approved indoor range, nor shall it apply to any landowner using firearms when in the act of protecting his or her property from destructive animals or under circumstances permitted by state law.

§ 128-5. Provisions subject to statute.

This chapter is subject to all of the provisions of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, including but not limited to those concerning fisheries, game and firearms.

1. Editor's Note: Now the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

§ 128-6. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to restrict the discharge of firearms in the Town of Cromwell in the interest of public safety.

ARTICLE II. PISTOL PERMITS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 21-31. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Ammunition means any projectile or other device which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to be expelled from any pistol or revolver.

Antique pistol or revolver means any pistol or revolver which was manufactured in or before 1898 and any replica of such pistol or revolver provided such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition except rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the United States and not readily available in the ordinary channel of commercial trade.

Chief of police means the chief of police of the city police department.

Permit includes the word "license."

Person means any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, or organization of any kind.

Pistol and *revolver* mean any firearm having a barrel less than twelve (12) inches in length.

Transfer includes to sell, assign, lease, loan, give away, or otherwise cause the lawful title or rightful possession of a firearm to vest in another.

(Code 1977, § 28-61)

Secs. 21-32—21-50. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. SALE OR TRANSFER OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

Sec. 21-51. Permit—Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to advertise, sell, deliver, or offer or expose for sale or delivery, or have in his possession with intent to sell or deliver, or loan, exchange, give away or otherwise transfer the lawful ownership or possession of any pistol or revolver at retail without having a permit therefor issued as provided in this division.

(Code 1977, § 28-66)

Sec. 21-52. Same—Application.

An application for a permit to sell or transfer pistols and revolvers shall be made in writing to the chief of police on such suitable forms provided or approved by him, setting forth the name and social security number of the applicant, the applicant's residence or registered address, and the address where business is to be conducted. The applicant must be a bona fide resident of, or have a place of business in the city in order to be eligible for a permit. The application for a permit shall also state that the applicant (including in the case of a corporation, partnership, or association, any individual possessing, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the corporation, partnership or association) is eighteen (18) years of age or older, that he is not under indictment for nor has been convicted in any court of a felony, is not a fugitive from justice, is not addicted to the use of narcotics, has not been a patient in a mental institution within the past five (5) years, and is not mentally retarded.

(Code 1977, § 28-67)

Sec. 21-53. Same—Issuance.

- (a) The chief of police shall issue a permit to sell or transfer pistols and revolvers to applicants who have satisfactorily complied with the requirements of this division. It shall be the duty of the chief of police to refuse the permit to any applicant who fails, refuses or is unable to comply with all of the requirements specified in this division.
- (b) The chief of police shall notify the applicant not later than eight (8) weeks after a sufficient application has been submitted that the request for a permit has been approved or denied.

(Code 1977, § 28-68)

Sec. 21-54. Same—Expiration.

A permit for the sale or transfer of pistols and revolvers shall expire five (5) years after the date it becomes effective; and renewal thereof shall expire five (5) years after the expiration date of the permit being renewed.

(Code 1977, § 28-69)

Sec. 21-55. Same—Fee.

The fee for each permit issued under the provisions of this division shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

(Code 1977, § 28-70)

Sec. 21-56. Same—Revocation.

The chief of police shall have the authority to revoke a permit issued under this division upon determining that the permit holder has violated any provision of this division or is no longer able to fully comply with all of the requirements specified in this division, and the money paid for such permit shall be forfeited to the city.

(Code 1977, § 28-71)

Sec. 21-57. Same—Display at place of sale.

No sale of any pistol or revolver shall be made except in the room, store or place described in the permit for the sale of pistols and revolvers, and such permit or a copy thereof certified by the authority issuing the same shall

be exposed to view within the room, store or place where pistols or revolvers are sold or offered or exposed for sale.

(Code 1977, § 28-72)

Sec. 21-58. Required records.

- (a) *Content of records.* Any seller of pistols and revolvers other than a manufacturer selling to a bona fide wholesaler or a retailer or a wholesaler selling to a bona fide retailer shall keep a record of all such pistols and revolvers sold, leased, loaned, given away or otherwise transferred. Such record shall contain the following information:
 - (1) The name, social security number, age, address, and permit number of the transferor;
 - (2) The name, social security number, age, address, and permit number of the transferee;
 - (3) The date of the sale;
 - (4) The name of the manufacturer, the caliber, make, model and serial number of the pistol or revolver.
- (b) *Inspection.* Records of transfers shall be open for inspection by any duly authorized law enforcement official or by the chief of police or city clerk of the city at all reasonable times.
- (c) *Evidence of identification of transferee.* The person to whom the pistol or revolver is to be delivered must provide evidence of his identification. Such evidence must include a picture identification, as well as information as to the bearer's age and address. The record of transfer shall be signed by the transferor and the transferee, each in the presence of the other.

(Code 1977, § 28-73)

Sec. 21-59. Application to purchase.

- (a) *Required; delivery; waiting period.* No person shall transfer a pistol or revolver at retail or otherwise transfer except upon written application on a form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner of public safety in triplicate. A copy of the application is to be mailed by first class mail on the day of receipt to the chief of police and one (1) to the commissioner of public safety. No sale or delivery of any pistol or revolver shall be made until the expiration of two (2) weeks from the date of the mailing of such copies.
- (b) *Exceptions.* The waiting period specified in subsection (a) of this section during which delivery may be made shall not apply to the holder of a valid state permit to carry pistols and revolvers, nor to any federal marshal, sheriff, parole officer or peace officer. The provisions of this section shall not apply to antique pistols or revolvers.
- (c) *Prohibited acts.* No person shall sell at retail, deliver or otherwise transfer any pistol or revolver to any alien. No person shall make any false statement or give any false information connected with any purchase or other transfer of any pistol or revolver. No person shall sell or otherwise transfer any pistol or revolver to any other person under the age of eighteen (18) years of age.

(Code 1977, § 28-74)

Sec. 21-60. Report of sale or transfer.

Any transferor of pistols and revolvers shall, upon selling or otherwise transferring a pistol or revolver, make a report of the sale or gift, which report shall contain the date of sale or transfer, name, age, address, occupation,

physical description of purchaser or donee, the purpose for which purchased, the kind, description, including serial number of the pistol or revolver, and the consideration paid therefor, the city and state permit number, if any, and/or the driver's license number, if any. Such report of sale shall be open for inspection by any duly authorized law enforcement official or by the chief of police or the city clerk at all reasonable times. In addition, the information contained in this section shall be provided by the seller to the chief of police no later than the last business day of each calendar month representing all sales, lease, loans, gifts, or other transfers of any pistol or revolver by the seller.

(Code 1977, § 28-75)

DIVISION 2A. LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS

Sec. 21-61. Statement of intent.

The city's experience is that many firearms used in violent crimes are weapons which have been stolen. Existing state law provides for a statewide firearms tracking task force within the division of state police. Requiring owners of firearms to promptly report to the police the loss or theft of firearms will enable the Hartford Police Department to timely investigate and hopefully solve the incidents of initial theft and may well result in taking firearms off the street before they can be used to perpetrate a violent crime. In addition, this legislation provides the city with a vehicle to recover costs expended in connection with police services from owners who fail to report stolen firearms. The section is within the city's police powers authority and its power to protect the public interest.

(Ord. No. 04-07, 5-14-07)

Sec. 21-62. [Owner to report loss or theft of firearm.]

In the city, any person who is the lawful owner of a firearm and any permitted firearm's owner shall report the loss or theft thereof from premises in the city or from their person to the Hartford Police Department within seventy-two (72) hours of becoming aware of said theft or loss.

(Ord. No. 04-07, 5-14-07)

Sec. 21-63. [Failure to report loss or theft of firearm.]

In the event that a lost or stolen firearm is determined to have been used to aid or abet the commission of a felony in the city and it shall become known to the Hartford Police that the owner of said firearm failed to report its loss or theft within seventy-two (72) hours of becoming aware of such loss or theft to the organized local police department in the municipality, or the Connecticut State Police, then the Corporation Counsel for the City of Hartford, on a showing of good cause, and consistent with state law, may sue the said owner to recover the costs to the city of police services and other expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of said felony.

(Ord. No. 04-07, 5-14-07)

Secs. 21-64—21-70. Reserved.

DIVISION 3. PERMIT TO CARRY PISTOL OR REVOLVER

(Supp. No. 115)

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Sec. 21-71. Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession in the city any pistol or revolver, except when such person is within his dwelling house or place of business, unless a permit to carry a pistol or revolver has been issued in accordance with the provisions of this division.

(Code 1977, § 28-81)

Sec. 21-72. Application.

- (a) *Documents required generally.* Every person applying for a permit to carry a pistol or revolver in the city shall provide the following documents to the Hartford police department, records division, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday:
- (1) A completed, notarized application form to be provided by the police department;
 - (2) Proof of citizenship in the form of a birth certificate or naturalization papers;
 - (3) Character references from three (3) persons who can testify to the applicant's character and reputation in the community. The three (3) persons cannot be relatives, city police officers, or civilian employees of the city police department. Character references must indicate how long the person has known the applicant, and an evaluation of the character, reputation and suitability of the applicant to carry a pistol or revolver. Character references shall be mailed to:

Hartford Police Department
50 Jennings Road
Hartford, CT 06120
c/o Pistol Permit Unit
 - (4) A certified check, cashier's check or money order in the amount of fourteen dollars (\$14.00) made payable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for the cost of an investigation by that agency of the applicant's fingerprints.
- (b) *Documents required for specific use.* If you are applying for a permit to carry a pistol or revolver for one (1) of the following reasons, the appropriate documents listed below must accompany the application:
- (1) *Security guard:* A letter from the company, on company letterhead, stating the need for a permit.
 - (2) *Business use:* In the case of a business owner, a state sales tax certificate. In the case of an employee required to carry large sums of money, a notarized letter on the employer's letterhead indicating that fact.
 - (3) *Target practice:* A club membership card, or a notarized letter of permission to use a pistol range, or a minimum of four (4) receipts in the applicant's name for use of any range. NRA membership alone does not constitute membership in a club.
- (c) *Fingerprinting.* The applicant must be fingerprinted at the police department evidentiary services division, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays (except holidays).
- (d) *Range safety and qualification test.* The applicant must contact the police department, records unit, permit section, six (6) weeks after being fingerprinted to make an appointment for a range safety and qualification test. Range tests are to be conducted on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m., by appointment only. The applicant is to report on the day of his appointment to the records unit with his pistol or revolver wrapped in paper and secured with string and shall bring ten (10) rounds of ammunition wrapped separately.

(Code 1977, § 28-82(a)—(d))

Sec. 21-73. Issuance, fee.

Upon satisfactorily completing all aspects of the application requirements for a permit to carry a pistol or revolver, the applicant will be scheduled to meet with the commander of the records unit of the police department. At that time, a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) in cash, check or money order made payable to the city shall be paid and a permit issued. If, at any point in the process an application is denied, the payment to the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be nonrefundable, however, no other charges for processing the application shall be made.

(Code 1977, § 28-82(e))

Sec. 21-74. Exceptions to division.

The provisions of this division shall not apply to the carrying of any pistol or revolver by any sheriff, parole officer or peace officer of any other state while engaged in the pursuit of his official duties, or federal marshal or federal law enforcement agent, or to any member of the armed forces of the United States, or of this state, when on duty or going to or from duty, or to any member of any military organization when on parade or when going to or from any place of assembly, or to the transportation of pistols or revolvers as merchandise, or to any person carrying any pistol or revolver while contained in the package in which it was originally wrapped at the time of sale and while carrying the same from the place of sale to the purchaser's residence or place of business, or to any person removing his household goods or effects from one (1) place to another, or to any person while carrying any such pistol or revolver from his place of residence or business to a place or person where or by whom such pistol or revolver is to be repaired or while returning to his place or residence or business after the same has been repaired, or to any person carrying a pistol or revolver in or through the state for the purpose of taking part in competitions or attending any meeting or exhibition of an organized collectors' group if such person is a bona fide resident of the United States having a permit or license to carry a firearm issued by the authority of any other state or subdivision of the United States, or to any person carrying a pistol or revolver to and from a testing range at the request of the issuing authority, or to any person carrying an antique pistol or revolver.

(Code 1977, § 28-83)

Secs. 21-75—21-100. Reserved.

§ 214-8. Hunting and carrying of firearms.

- A. Hunting and/or carrying of any firearms is prohibited in any City park or recreational area. "Firearm" is defined in accord with C.G.S. § 53a-3 and any mechanism which is capable of discharging a projectile of any type.
- B. Exceptions for the carrying of a firearm will be provided for current police officers and retired police officers.
- C. Any person violating any provisions of this section shall be prosecuted and fined in an amount as provided in § 214-36.

ARTICLE V. WEAPONS

Sec. 70-191. Discharge of firearms and other dangerous devices.

- (a) No person shall discharge a firearm or dangerous device, out-of-doors, within a distance of 500 feet of a dwelling unless such discharge is with the permission of the owners or occupants of all dwellings within 500 feet.
- (b) No person shall aim and discharge, out-of-doors, a firearm or dangerous device in the direction of a person, building, vehicle or domestic animal within the range of the firearm he is discharging.
- (c) For the purpose of this section, a dangerous device shall be any air rifle, BB gun, slingshot, crossbow, bow and arrow, or any other device capable of projecting an object with sufficient force so as to cause injury to person or domestic animals or to cause damage to property.
- (d) This section shall not apply to any person who shall discharge any firearm or dangerous device in reasonable defense of his person or property or in the performance of any legal duty.
- (e) Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section shall be subject to punishment as provided in section 1-12.

(Code 1978, § 5-501)

Secs. 70-192—70-200. Reserved.

Coventry Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee

The following is a list of components identified from reviewed ordinances and prior discussion for the consideration of the committee should it be decided to draft an ordinance. Their inclusion on this list should not be considered a recommendation from Town Staff:

- Prohibition on discharge of a firearm within a distance from another building
 - Amount varies, often 500 ft.
 - An exception is sometimes given with the written permission of the property owner
- Range Design
 - Certain components, like a backstop might be required
 - Permitting for home ranges
- Exceptions
 - Self-defense
 - Law Enforcement
 - Ceremonies
 - Pest Control
 - Reduced requirements for air rifles/air pistols/paintball
 - Registered Shooting Ranges/Gun Clubs
- Time Restriction
 - Restriction on time of day where shooting can occur
 - Restriction on the amount of time one can shoot
 - Restriction of use on certain days/holidays
- Requirement to Notify Law Enforcement
- Restriction on use by minors
- Restriction on rate of fire/frequency of shooting
- Fine for failing to comply