

Town of Coventry
Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee
Special Meeting
Tuesday September 30, 2025
6:30 PM
Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street
Zoom Meeting Link Below

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

2. Approval Of Minutes

3. Review Of Public Comment Feedback

Documents:

[BEAUSOLEIL FEEDBACK EMAIL.PDF](#)
[GLENNEY FEEDBACK EMAIL.PDF](#)
[MILKOVIC FEEDBACK EMAIL.PDF](#)
[PACE FEEDBACK EMAIL.PDF](#)
[SWIFT FEEDBACK EMAIL.PDF](#)

4. Draft Of Firearms Ordinance

Documents:

[FIREARMS ORDINANCE DRAFT LANGUAGE 5.PDF](#)

5. Discussion And Planning Of Future Meetings

6. Other Business

7. Adjournment

Topic: FS/HSRSC Meeting

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89194716516?pwd=abdZ4QxKTinPhVpbkgK9WkP3CfHDJe.1>

Meeting ID: 891 9471 6516

Passcode: 300851

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89194716516#,,,,*300851# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,89194716516#,,,,*300851# US

Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89194716516?signature=gU0ehfW0Z3iAa15p9Sjk7e2BSYZvIk_OLiQ2tGg-OyA

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Firearms safety ordinance hearing/forum for feedback - Jen's comments at the table

From Jen B <jnbeaus221@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/23/2025 2:21 PM

To Feedback <feedback@coventry-ct.gov>

Cc Laura Stone <lstone@coventry-ct.gov>; Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>

You don't often get email from jnbeaus221@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings,

Recently I attended the 9/18/25 firearms safety ordinance hearing/forum that was held to gather feedback on the draft ordinance.

First, thank you for providing the opportunity. Second, thank you for trying to keep the discussions under control and appropriate.

There was a lot of noise, and I forgot to leave my printed comment for the clerk. Not sure if it is ok to provide it after the meeting or not. If it is ok, my comments are at the end of this email. If not, please accept them and this email as feedback to the committee/commission for consideration in their development of the ordinance.

Thank you,

- *Jen Beausoleil*
Coventry, CT

Comments read by Jennifer Beausoleil at 9/18 meeting...

"Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the ordinance regarding recreational shooting of firearms for non-hunting purposes in Coventry.

I appreciate the work of the volunteers on the committee to evaluate a large number of varied sources for their work on this draft.

In 1998, there was a fatal shooting of a man walking his dog on a Sunday morning in my neighborhood. Our neighborhood and community learned a lot about hunting laws, safety recommendations from gun owners and hunters, and their organizations. These include hours of the day restrictions, safe colors for clothing, public vs private land, distance setback from buildings and property lines, and much more.

When the topic of this ordinance and committee came up, I didn't realize that the state laws regarding gun safety for hunting do not apply to discharge of a gun in non-hunting uses. This was a

surprise to me that hunting safety laws didn't apply to target shooting. I, like many people, thought those guidelines for time of day and distance from buildings applied to target shooting as well.

My understanding of hunting laws doesn't come from being a hunter, though I have several friends that hunt or own guns. And I support the right of people to own guns, and to bear arms. It comes from the 1998 shooting deal of Ron Eckert in my Coventry neighborhood one Sunday morning. Everyone in my neighborhood had a sudden and tragic education in hunting laws and gun safety.

My feedback to the committee regarding the draft ordinance comes from that experience, knowledge, and includes a general preference for mirroring or paralleling existing, established hunting laws.

So, thank you for including setback language related to buildings. It is similar to language in hunting laws. It is 350ft which is shorter than hunting laws which are 500ft.

The hours of the day section also seems similar to the hunting regulations related to end of day or sunset.

Some adjustments that I would ask the committee to consider include:

- Referencing a setback distance from public lands such as parks, fields, playgrounds, and school property, etc. These are areas where open land is regularly used by people, and there are no buildings within 350ft of the property line or usage areas.
- Location of the backstop be outside of the 20ft or 50ft setbacks in current zoning regulations for things built near the property line. As lines are not always obvious, zoning regulations prevent accidental misunderstandings of property lines, especially since the 350ft is shorter than the 500ft for hunting.
- Consider term recommending as opposed to requiring for the police dept notification language

As someone who has watched LifeStar land on her street for the victim of a shooting, I believe finding a good balance between the right to bear arms and common sense safety guidelines is valuable.

As a mom who watched the emotions of my children and those in my neighborhood after a shooting death on our street, I appreciate the committee's work in providing common sense safety guidelines consistent or that parallel long standing, existing hunting regulations, and for listening to recommendations and feedback."

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Comments for Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee

From William Glenney <wglenney@aol.com>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 7:50 AM

To Feedback <feedback@coventry-ct.gov>; Jana Roberson <jroberson@coventry-ct.gov>; James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>; Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Cc William Glenney (CVC) <wglenney@aol.com>

 1 attachment (9 KB)

smime.p7s;

You don't often get email from wglenney@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening.

I am Bill Glenney, 664 Silver Street – retired Captain, U.S. Navy and town resident for some 35 years.

First, I thank the members of the Committee for their time and energy over the past year working on their tasking from the Town Council to address a matter of potential safety and well-being for the residents of our town.

More importantly, I am here tonight **strongly against the proposed ordinance** and against any further efforts by the Committee or the Town Council. As you all know, this problem really started when two neighbors could not get along. Rather than letting the disagreement play out in the courts, the Town Council sought a solution, and the Committee produced **a solution in search of a real problem to solve**. And, in so doing, generated a proposed ordinance that places the Coventry Police Department (CPD) front and center in applying that solution – a position in which CPD has no business being. Furthermore, the proposed ordinance potentially turns law abiding, gun owners exercising their 2nd Amendment rights **into criminals**.

For example:

- a. Section 66-76b - Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club – Definitions - **does nothing to provide safety or well-being for residents**. Furthermore, it potentially places liability upon the CPD and the Town of Coventry should something untoward occur if a shooting range is not in compliance with ill-defined requirements.
- b. Section 66-77c requires a standoff of at least 350 feet from a property line or a neighboring building. That means anyone with less than about 11 acres of land cannot conduct recreational shooting (700 ft by 700 ft = 490,000 sq ft = 11.2 acres). UNLESS the gun owner obtains written permission from any adjacent landowners to do said shooting. If you ask why 350 feet standoff and not 250 feet or something smaller, the June 19th Committee discussions indicate “Because the Chief feels more comfortable with 350 feet than 250 feet.” So again, the Police Department is the decider for safe standoff and doing so in an arbitrary manner.
- c. Section 66-78a - Time Requirements – Start time not earlier than 9:00am - **does nothing to provide safety or well-being for residents**. The start time of 9:00am is arbitrary with no apparent relationship to safety.
- d. Section 66-78b - Time Requirements – Notification of CPD and four-hour limit - **does nothing to provide safety or well-being for residents**. Requiring prior notification to the Coventry Police Department (CPD) 15 minutes before shooting has no basis in safety or well being. Furthermore, limiting recreational shooting to four hours per calendar day also has no apparent basis in safety or well-being.
- e. Any notion regarding 1) permitting of a shooting range, or 2) requiring inspection of ranges by the CPD should be avoided. Again, there is no basis in terms of safety or well-being served by permitting or CPD inspections. Chief Peterson indicated that he was not an expert on home ranges but would use common sense. This approach would not be a consistent or enforceable approach.

f. This proposed ordinance confuses hunting and target shooting, and not in a manner that enhances safety or resident well-being. Under Connecticut statutes, I can hunt during hunting season from one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset without calling CPD or limiting any hunting to four hours or less. Yes, under most conditions there is a 500-foot standoff.

g. If a law-abiding gun owner runs afoul of this proposed ordinance, they might well find on their next trip to Cabela's they fail the national background check because they have violated Coventry gun control ordinances.

2. In closing, thank you for your time and energy. **But, this proposed ordinance must be stopped.** There is no reason for CPD to be central to this matter. While there is questionable need to do so, if the Town Council insists on action regarding home shooting ranges, maybe it is better handled by the Zoning Board and Coventry zoning regulations outside the purview of this Committee and the Coventry Police Department. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Bill Glenney

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Public comment meeting: Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Committee

From Marty Milkovic <martymilkovic@netscape.net>

Date Mon 9/15/2025 6:10 PM

To Feedback <feedback@coventry-ct.gov>

You don't often get email from martymilkovic@netscape.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To The Members of the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Committee,

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their good work in improving the safety of our community.

Full disclosure: I am a member of Town Council; however, I am not seeking reelection in November. As I will likely not be in office when your work concludes, I am writing as a private citizen.

On the morning of Friday, December 14, 2012, I was at a meeting in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford when an alert popped up on my phone about a shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. My oldest grandson was a student there at the time, so I immediately searched for updates. Early reports stated that the principal and another adult had been killed, which slightly reduced my obvious concern. Still, I was deeply worried about the risk to my young grandson and the other students at his school. About an hour later, my daughter-in-law texted me to say that he had not been in school that day and was safe, much to my relief. It was only while driving to my office and listening to the radio that I learned 20 six- and seven-year-old students, along with six adult staff members, had been murdered. I was devastated. Even though my grandson was safe, it was an overwhelming catastrophe, and my mind kept turning to “what if” scenarios.

I admit that I am biased about guns in America. We have more guns than people ([source](#)). and one of the highest rates of gun deaths among developed nations ([source](#)).

To my neighbors who regard the Second Amendment's words as sacred — “...*the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed*” — I would also point to the first portion of the Amendment: “*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State...*” Even our current conservative Supreme Court recognizes an individual's right to bear arms but also holds that this right is not unlimited ([source](#)).

Safety should be the primary consideration of any municipal ordinance you propose. I believe you can make a strong case for restricting firearm discharge in residential areas of a certain density, but I will leave it to the Committee's collective judgment to determine the best way to improve safety.

Again, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Marty Milkovic

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Comment(s) Chapter 66-Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions: Article III - Home Shooting Ranges

From Dan <danop@sbcglobal.net>
Date Mon 9/1/2025 9:12 AM
To Feedback <feedback@coventry-ct.gov>

[You don't often get email from danop@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

I have been a resident of Coventry Connecticut for 25 years. The reason(s) my wife and I decided to move to Coventry was the reputation of this area being quiet, peaceful and laid back.

Unfortunately the above conditions are no longer true. The term of "The Quiet Corner" is non existent.

I along with many other Coventry residents are totally against any home shooting ranges in our town.

At a time when more noise is present with the discharge of illegal fireworks, loud cars and motorcycles with illegal exhaust systems, and the ever present violation of speeding vehicles we do not need to " Add more fuel to the fire ".

Additionally, these home shooting ranges will greatly affect the community and my following remarks must be taken seriously:

Those with PTSD will experience this condition more than ever.

Children playing outside will do so with background noise from gunfire throughout the day along with others who enjoy just being outside.

Then there are the parents who like to take a walk with their children, walk their dog(s), jog, spend time at the playground or enjoying the lakes in town.

Property values will decrease once the town will have approved home shooting ranges. Who will want to purchase a home in Coventry with a home shooting range down the road?

Who will respond to complaints and enforce the proposed rules?

Who will inspect these home shooting ranges to verify that they are in compliance with the ordinances regarding them?

What about the possibility of individuals using home shooting ranges while consuming alcohol or using marijuana or illegal drugs and possibly firing their weapons?

How will residents distinguish between the recreational shooting of firearms and unlawful discharge of firearms on private property.

In closing I want to share a story with you that occurred two years ago.

My seven year old grandson was visiting me and as we were in my backyard gunshot noise erupted a few streets over. He became very upset with the loud noises from the gunfire and visibility upset. He then asked me, " Poppy, is someone firing a gun and I replied, yes Andrew and he then asked "Are they killing people"

The next day I called the police department and they sent a officer to my house. I explained to her what had transpired and gave her the location of the home where the gunfire was coming from.

She returned to my house within ten minutes and explained to me that she talked to the party shooting the gun and told me because he was shooting it into the woods there was nothing she could do.

Coventry does not need home shooting ranges. Those people who support this idea are in the minority and not the majority of Coventry residents and I hope this initiative will become a thing of the past and not a reality.

Sincerely,

Daniel Pace
179 Windswept Way
Coventry, CT. 06238

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE) Comment on proposed ordinance

From Owen Swift <oswift@sent.com>

Date Mon 8/25/2025 5:54 PM

To Feedback <feedback@coventry-ct.gov>

You don't often get email from oswift@sent.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please include these comments as feedback on the Town of Coventry's Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Committee proposed ordinance for the Public Meeting scheduled for September 18, 2025.

The proposed ordinance is defective as written and requires revision before further action is taken upon it.

1. The broad definition of "Air gun" in Section 66-76 includes paintball guns and airsoft guns. Both types of guns are "capable" of "injuring" and "inflicting physical damage." An alternative definition for purposes of this ordinance should specify that an air gun includes only those devices with a projectile caliber less than or equal to 0.22 inches, or with muzzle velocity greater than 700 feet per second. Air guns that do not meet those definitions should not be subject to the stringent provisions of this ordinance. Excluding low-power devices in this ordinance does not mean that their misuse is not proscribed by other laws covering endangerment, property damage, or disorderly conduct.
2. Section 66-77(a) contains these flaws:
 1. Property owners are wrongly privileged over lessees. If a lease does not already prohibit a lessee from recreational shooting then the town should not do the work of the lessor in regulating the permitted property uses. For example, under this ordinance a lessee of a house could not fire a pellet gun in the basement of the house they rent.
 2. Makes no allowance for properties not owned by a natural person. For example, a property title could be held by a living trust, and the beneficiary of the trust would have no lawful ability to shoot an air gun on his or her property.
 3. "Have on their person the written permission" is not rationally related to public safety. A person could have received written permission, not have it on their person, and in all other respects be operating safely and within the bounds of the ordinance and still be criminalized by this ordinance.
3. Most of Section 66-78 (b) is not rationally related to public safety or noise control. A requirement to notify the police department in advance does nothing to reduce complaints or the activities of target shooters. Aggrieved people will always complain. Complainants cannot reliably tell the difference between a nail gun and an air gun. Complainants cannot reliably tell the difference between a ramset device and a pistol. Complainants cannot reliably tell the difference between hunting and target shooting. Pre-notification only serves to chill otherwise lawful activity by imposing bureaucracy. This section should be corrected to simply read "Persons engaged in recreational shooting shall have a four (4) hour window per calendar day in

which to do so" which would be a reasonable mitigation. Complainants remain free to gather evidence of ordinance violations and submit their complaints for enforcement.

4. Section 66-79 contains these flaws:

1. None of these activities in a, b, c, d, f, g, and h fit the ordinance's definition of "recreational shooting" and would be automatically excluded from the regulation even if not itemized. To include a few named exceptions is to suggest that anything not specifically named is suspect. Each of these lettered subsections should be struck.
2. Part (e): Any clubs or commercial shooting ranges should already be in compliance (and should want to be in compliance) with the safety-related parts of the ordinance. If a time window is included in the final ordinance, then clubs or shooting ranges can be specifically exempted from only the time window requirement.

Ordinances ought to be drafted narrowly to solve specific problems, with careful attention to the preservation of existing rights and privileges.

Sincerely,
Owen Swift
89 S River Rd

Chapter 66 – OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE III. – HOME SHOOTING RANGES

Sec. 66-75 Purpose

The purpose of this article is to establish regulations surrounding the discharge of firearms for target-shooting purposes on private property to provide for the safety and well-being of the residents of the Town of Coventry

Sec. 66-76 Definitions

Firearm

Any shotgun, pistol, rifle, revolver, muzzle-loading device or other such weapon which uses chemical propellant to expel a projectile capable of killing, injuring, or inflicting physical damage

Air gun

Any device which uses springs, air, compressed gas, or other non-explosive force to expel a projectile capable of killing, injuring, or inflicting physical damage

Backstop

A device, structure, or terrain designed to stop and contain projectiles fired on a range.

Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club

An organization of individuals which meets the following criteria:

- a) Maintains in good condition a shooting range in a fixed location with an adequate design to contain fired projectiles;
- b) Said shooting range is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws;
- c) Individuals discharging firearms are adequately trained in firearms safety; and
- d) Has criteria for members or other range users to ensure the safe discharge of firearms.

Recreational Shooting

For the purposes of this chapter, recreational shooting is understood to be shooting a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** at an inanimate target

Sec. 66-77 Safety Requirements

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** or **Air Guns** must be the owner of the property on which the discharge is to occur, be the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property, or be an invited guest with the owner of the property present. The same requirements apply for the location of the backstop at which projectiles are being directed.

Commented [AT1]: This ordinance is a draft based on preferences expressed by the FS/HRSC. This is not finalized, and all language present within may be subject to change.

Commented [AT2]: A separate definition was given for the sake of clarity, and Air Guns were specifically included on restrictions based on safety but excluded from those where noise may be the central concern

- b) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** or **Air Guns** must do so only with an adequate backstop capable of stopping all projectiles intended to be used. The backstop must be of sufficient depth and strength to contain any projectiles fired or intended to be fired at a range and must be of a sufficient height or size to stop projectiles at any position the shooter intends to use.
- c) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** must do so at a distance of greater than 350ft from any structure or enclosed outdoor space occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for the storage of flammable materials unless they are the owner of such property, the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, or have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property to do so. A building is considered to be occupied for the purposes of this ordinance unless it appears from a reasonable inspection of the structure to be unoccupied.
- d) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** or **Air Guns** must not shoot across any public roads or public trails.
- e) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** or **Air Guns** must do so at an inanimate target which does not possess any secondary reaction upon being hit by a projectile, including explosions, incineration, or expelling projectiles or shrapnel.
- f) Minors under 18 years of age wishing to shoot **Firearms** must be properly supervised by a parent or legal guardian of such minor, or another adult with the approval of their parent or legal guardian.

Sec. 66-78 Time Requirements

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** must do so between the hours of 9:00 AM to sunset as defined in the current Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide.
- b) Persons wishing to engage in recreational shooting with **Firearms** must call the Coventry Police Department and give notice fifteen (15) minutes before the intended start of shooting. Once shooting begins, persons engaging in recreational shooting shall have a four (4) hour window in which to do so. One such window shall be granted per calendar day.

Sec. 66-79 Exceptions

The restrictions within this Sec. 66 Article III shall not be construed to apply in the following circumstances:

- a) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** by a police officer or animal control officer acting within the scope of their official duties;
- b) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** for the purposes of hunting as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 26-1;
- c) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** for the purposes of defending oneself or other persons from physical force in accordance with all federal, state and local laws;

- d) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** for the purposes of shooting wildlife actively causing property damage or posing an active threat to public safety in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes;
- e) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** at a range on the property of The Manchester Sportsmen’s Association, Manchester Coon and Fox Club, or a Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club duly organized in accordance with Town zoning requirements;
- f) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of construction, such as a nail or staple gun, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun**;
- g) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** as a part of a memorial ceremony or parade by police officers, active duty members in military service of the United States or Connecticut National Guard, or by a nationally recognized veteran’s organization; and
- h) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** as a part of an authorized historical reenactment.

Sec. 66-80 Penalty for violation of article

Any person who violates the regulations set out in this article shall be subject to a fine for such a violation pursuant to Sec. 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances

Commented [AT3]: Sec. 1-10 indicates fines shall be at most \$100 if not otherwise specified. Each day a violation continues may be counted as a separate offense.

Secs. 66-81 – 66-96 Reserved

DRAFT