



**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