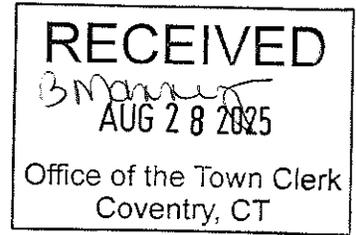


Town of Coventry
 Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 Thursday August 21, 2025



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	
	Kenneth Stein, Vice Chairperson	X	
	Dudley Brand	X	
	Mike Mangiafico-Joined at 6:38 PM	X	
	Carolyn Batz		X
STAFF:	Jana Roberson, Director of Planning & Dev't.		X
	Chief of Police Eric Peterson		X

Also present: Special Projects Coordinator Alex Taylor

2. Approval Of Minutes:

A. Minutes, June 19, 2025:

Motion: I move to accept the June 19, 2025, Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee Meeting Minutes.

By: Brand Second: Stein

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

3. Extension Resolution:

Taylor explained that the Town Council approved an extension of this committee on 8/4/25. A copy of the resolution is attached to the agenda. This extension extends the committee's duration though December 1, 2025, allowing for 4 more regular meetings. However, special meetings can be called during this time frame if necessary.

The public comment meeting could take place as part of a regular meeting, or a special meeting. Scheduling this will take place later on the agenda.

Murray stated that they should notify Carolyn Batz about the extension, to ensure she is aware and able to continue attending meetings. Murray reminded that she serves on the commission as a member of the public and wants to make sure that position is represented. If Batz cannot attend further meetings, the committee will try to fill the seat if necessary, and if time allows.

4. Draft of Firearms Ordinance:

No changes have been made since the last meeting.

The draft has been reviewed by both the Steering Committee and the Town Council. Questions have come up regarding the distance that was included. It was explained why the 350 ft distance requirement was chosen, along with there being a stipulation that the distance could be shortened with written permission from the neighbor(s).

It was stated that ordinance is still a draft, which was recognized by the Town Councilors, and it is not expected to be finalized until the committee hears from the public and incorporates feedback as needed.

5. Public Feedback Planning:

It was discussed to hold the public presentation at the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 18th at 6:30 PM. In addition to in person comments received at the meeting, the committee will also be accepting email correspondence for review. It was suggested to have a separate email developed to take in comments. Locations were discussed, and it was ultimately decided to be held in the annex.

It was also suggested having a public feedback portion of the meeting at both the September and October meetings, should there be a need due to a large response and attendance at the September meeting. It was noted that having a public comment session at the October meeting would cause a tight turnaround for any edits to be made for the draft ordinance. However, it was reminded that a special meeting could be held in order wrap up the ordinance.

Residents attending the meeting will be given a timeframe in which to state their comments or give feedback. It will also allow for questions to be asked, and responses given in an orderly way. It was recommended to have a time limit for each comment/question of 5 minutes to allow everyone attending time to speak.

The September public comment meeting will be advertised on the Town Manager's Facebook page, Town website, and other outlets. It was suggested that a link to the draft ordinance be included in digital advertisements. The Town Council members will be invited as well, should they wish to attend.

The structure of the September meeting will consist of a public presentation, similar to the presentation given to the Steering Committee, to briefly educate on firearms safety and explain how this committee got to where they are today. Following the presentation, the meeting will open to an Audience of Citizens/Public Comment, before continuing on with the agenda. The committee suggested having print outs of the ordinance available for those in attendance.

It was reiterated that the need for an October public comment will be determined based on the demand.

6. Public Presentation:

The presentation will be brief but have key points to inform those in attendance of important firearms safety points, and regulations considered and reviewed when drafting the ordinance. This will be important to try and correct misinformation that has been spread on Facebook.

It will be explained that this committee was formed to research issues in town and find the best solution. It was stressed that it was never the goal or purpose to inhibit or restrict the rights of the town residents or establish any sort of gun control.

It will also be explained that this committee will be making a recommendation to the Town Council based on their research. If the Town Council votes to move forward with adopting the ordinance, there will be a public hearing as required. This will be another opportunity for residents to comment on the ordinance.

Stein suggested editing slide 6 of the presentation to clarify that the state law of a 500-foot restriction near dwellings/livestock applies only to hunting.

7. Other Business:

Murray commented that he has been looking into research on sound and gun noise travel. He noted that he will continue researching to bring information to the committee at the next meeting but wants to make sure the information he has found is accurate and peer reviewed.

Stein added that he wants to take readings with a decibel meter at the range he is a member of to see noise levels from different distances and see what impacts distance may have on firearms noise. He noted that he is going to try and do this soon if time allows to be able to present his findings to the committee.

It was questioned what items will be on the next meeting agenda after the public comment. Murray suggested that they should have a discussion of the public comments and do a review of the written correspondence submitted, if there is time. It was requested that email correspondence have a cutoff date in order for comments to be reviewed in a timely fashion.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:29 PM.

Submitted by,

Nicole Archambault

Nicole Archambault

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Committee at the next meeting. Please see the next Committee meeting minutes for approval or changes.