

PLEASE SHOOT DOWN THE GUN RANGE.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposal by the Road and Gun club to build a permanent structure in our neighborhood.

Frankly, I would prefer it if the gun range relocated to a rural area where it was not such a loud and offensive presence in our quiet community.

More than two decades ago, family and friends gathered in the grove across from Ferry Park Ave. to celebrate the life of my father in law, a Unitarian Universalist minister and pacifist who spent his summers here.

The first of four ministers delivering eulogies had just started to speak when his words were drowned out and the peace shattered by gun shots.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Those new to this neighborhood nuisance looked around shell shocked, the peaceful mood disturbed.

"Just what Albert would have wanted " the eulogist said sarcastically when the noise died down. "A military funeral"

For the two plus decades since then, the neighborhood has been forced to endure the presence of this noisy neighbor.

Gunshot has frightened and irritated residents and guests ... residents who paying big taxes and renters who spend big in vacation bucks to enjoy the serenity of the beach. I pay almost \$14,000 in property taxes on a small cottage and family home that has been in the family for almost 70 years... money that helps support our community and schools. I collect thousands in lodging taxes for the state from my guests... money that helps fund needed state programs.

What does the shooting range contribute ... besides noise... an irritant that makes paying guests think twice about spending vacation dollars here.

Personally, when the shooting starts I retreat indoors, closing windows and doors. Gunshot has drowned out the sound of waves rolling to shore ... the sound of birds chirping in the trees ... the laughter of children at play ... the sound of music being sung in the grove.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

This is not to knock shooting ranges. They serve a useful purpose for law enforcement training, hunters honing their skills, recreational target shooters. This is to say THIS shooting range is located in the WRONG place.

In Carrabassett Valley, we have a popular and well used shooting range that bothers no one. It is located off the highway on a site with no residential development... where it belongs.

PLEASE do not make a bad situation worse for us. PLEASE say NO to this proposal.

Thank you,
[REDACTED] Neighborhood Resident

March 9, 2020

Planning Board, City of Saco
Emily Cole-Prescott, City Planner
300 Main Street
Saco ME 04072-1538

Dear People,

I am responding to your request for comments regarding a conditional use application for a parcel of land located near our property at the March 17, 2020 hearing.

The zoning request is item c. under new business: 132 Seaside Ave., conditional use application for a concrete pad and roof system. The applicant is Camp Ellis Rod & Gun Club. The property is zoned: R-1A.

We are requesting that you decline to approve this application for the following reasons:

*This is a residential beach community. The Rod & Gun Club has become increasingly intrusive into our community. The noise from the shooting can be both alarming and disturbing. The increased noise from more powerful ammunition is so great there are times we must leave. Is there no limit to the fire power and ammunition allowed?

*Our property taxes this past year are in excess of \$6200.00, yet there are times we do not have comfortable access to our own property.

*Our guests have complained about the explosive sounds from the club. We have had guests refuse to return because of the disturbance.

The Club needs to relocate to a place that is not next door to a residential summer community. They have the choice to sell their property, relocate, and continue to participate in their pursuits.

My father was a Maine Guide. I grew up in The County around guns, fishing, and enjoying the natural environment. The presence of the Camp Ellis Rod & Gun Club, however, is inappropriate in the present neighborhood location.

The property taxes for the club should be increased to a considerable degree if the club continues in its present location. This would offset our own property tax increase due to the loss of value of our properties.

Furthermore, they should be required to build a sound-proof facility for the use of guns.

Please look favorably on this request.

Regards,

 Neighborhood Resident

Dear City Planners:

I've been coming to Saco for 35 years to enjoy the beach, the town, the river, restaurants, etc. and I have always recommended this area of Maine to all my friends in western Massachusetts. We hear shooting from the Ferry Beach Conference Center already and although we have had to grow accustomed to it, I urge you NOT to expand the exposure with either increased hours, patronage, or land use. A gun club does not belong near a resort area - in this time of alarm and overuse of weaponry, I believe most vacationers would greatly prefer peace and quiet.

████████ Ferry Beach Member