

This Drastic Ordinance is as much a Property Rights issue as a Firearms Rights issue.

On Monday, August 19 there will be one last public hearing where property owners can oppose the Essex Firearms Ordinance. The select board meeting will start at 7:45 PM at the Essex High School. Our folks need to show up and get the select board to vote against the proposed ordinance. Wearing hunter orange is encouraged.

On July 15, the Essex Select Board once again ignored the property owners who want to be able to shoot on their property in a safe and responsible manner. The Select Board moved forward on a vote of 4-1 a proposed ordinance that would require a property be registered/licensed as a shooting to have any firearm discharge, except for hunting. This is target practice any open property and requires buying a government license from Essex.

Remember the ordinance would require certification to the guidelines of the NRA Range Source Book and a \$500,000 insurance policy to buy a government range license. The NRA Range Source Book is a three ring binder, about three inches thick.

- * There was never any serious consideration of adopting an ordinance like that in Colchester, the town that abuts Essex. An ordinance that works well in Colchester.
- * The Essex ordinance is as much a property rights issue as a firearm rights issue. What is next getting banned or requiring buying a government license? Snowmobiles, mountain bikes?

The Essex definition of a shooting range would be much more expansive than the state law, no target shooting, none, the Essex definition is:

"Outdoor shooting range" mean an outdoor shooting range, outdoor firing range, or **other open property** on persons may discharge a firearm except for hunting.

The state law definition of a sport shooting range is:

(Cite as: 10 V.S.A. § 5227)

§ 5227. Sport shooting ranges; municipal and State authority

(a) "Sport shooting range" or "range" means an area designed and operated for the use of archery, rifles, shotguns, pistols, skeet, trap, black powder, or any other similar sport shooting.

This is the definition is from the authority of municipalities to regulate firearm discharge:

(Cite as: 24 V.S.A. § 2291)

§ 2291. Enumeration of powers

(8) To regulate or prohibit the use or discharge, but not possession of, firearms within the municipality or specified portions thereof, provided that an ordinance adopted under this subdivision shall be consistent with section 2295 of this title and shall not prohibit, reduce, or limit discharge at any existing sport shooting range, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 5227.

If Essex enacts this ordinance how long do you think it will be before many, many other municipalities in Vermont want to pass this or worse?

Our greatest strength comes from standing together. Our greatest weakness is apathy and falling for the divide and conquer techniques of the antis by being convinced we can throw some of folks under the bus and we have not weakened the solidarity of all of hunting and shooting.