

To: Select Board of the Town of Carroll, New Hampshire

Re: Firing Range at the Recreation Center

I am writing this letter in regards to the "petition" by Mr. Jack Catalano to have the firing range at the Town Recreation Center shut down. I am against shutting down the firing range as it offers an extremely safe location to enjoy the sport of shooting, sighting in a weapon for hunting season and a place to teach our youth the safe handling of firearms. I have personally used this location several times to instruct new shooters. In my opinion, this location is ideal for target shooting and this adds great value to our community.

I would guess that some of you have been to the shooting area in question and may have enjoyed this location in the past yourselves. Upon entering this area you can see the high gravel banks that surround three sides of the range making it an ideal location to safely fire a weapon. In Mr. Catalano's "petition" he often mentions safety and security. I am willing to bet that there have not been any reports of mishaps from this range that would jeopardize anyone's safety. In the board meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Selectman Scalley asked Chief Trammell if there have been any complaints received by the police department about the range. The Chief stated there may have been but not many. I'm sure if there was a safety concern about the range it would have been brought up well before this time. I personally do not see a safety issue in using this location as a shooting range. With its high gravel banks on three sides, one way to enter the pit, one way out and a level area to shoot from, this is an ideal spot.

I can sympathize with Mr. Catalano about the occasional noise from the range. This however should not be a reason to shut down this area for good. Let's not make a knee jerk reaction to a complaint about anything to do with firearms as is so often done in this day and age. Let's take the time to evaluate the situation and come to some sort of compromise. The Board could place date and time restrictions on the use of the range. Maybe limit the times to a Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The board could limit the type of weapons that could be used, say no automatic weapon fire, no exploding targets. The board could put out a sign in sheet and mandate that everyone sign in with the date and time that the range is used so that there is a record of who was at the range. This may come in handy if the Police Department needs to follow up on who might have been at the range on a certain date. I'm just throwing ideas around in effort to come up with some sort of compromise to keep this range open. If this range is closed where will the residents of the town go to in order to sight in their deer rifles prior to the hunting season? Many residents don't have a berm or an area to safely shoot a rifle on their property. Having an area to go to in town does in fact make this a great town to live in. Having been a firearms instructor for 15 years in a Connecticut Police Department I can tell you I was thrilled to have such a safe area in town to shoot with my children.

As a tax payer in this town all I ask is that the board takes its time in rendering a decision about what I believe is a great asset to Twin Mountain.

Respectfully,

Adam Luth

95 Mahlyn Drive, Twin Mountain NH 203-641-2419



RECEIVED  
MAY 02 2018  
Town of Carroll