

Firearms Business Use Bylaw Information Session

March 28, 2024

Resident Questions



[Sarah Thompson](#)

Question for this evening:

It's been stated that "similar" bylaws have been successfully implemented in Acton, Newton, Littleton, Wellesley, Plainville, Brookline, Dedham, and Westwood. Can you confirm that the setbacks for Sudbury's proposed buffer zones to residences & schools, as well as the setbacks to sensitive uses (daycares, playgrounds, etc.) are EQUAL TO or GREATER than all of those towns listed? Same question regarding guidance from the Giffords Law Center--are all of the buffer zones and setbacks in Sudbury in line with their recommendations?

Thanks,

Sarah Thompson

61 Dakin Road



[Pam Skewes-Cox](#)

We appear to have a choice between a ban OR a proposal to limit gun shops to certain areas of town. What other options has the Board considered? I understand the Giffords Center has a national strategy, but this is Sudbury. Has the Board evaluated anything beyond the ban and the proposed bylaw--a third avenue perhaps?

Pam Skewes-Cox 316 Goodman's Hill Rd.



[Ralph Tyler](#)

Since it appears that the Article as well as the presentation was prepared primarily by Select Board member Russo and since the Select Board is closely divided as to the wisdom of this proposal I think it extremely important that the minority opposition members be given equal time to explain to Sudbury Voters why they voted NO on the proposed firearm zoning bylaw.

A. Why are all industrial districts included in the table of use regulations instead of the only one industrial District that proponents say allows firearm stores to be established?

Is it because Section 2256 d allows the permit granting authority discretion to allow these business in any of the other Industrial Districts?

B. Why doesn't Section 2258 specify how many member of the select board must vote in the affirmative to grant a Special Permit?

Why doesn't it take a supermajority of 2/3 or more to grant a Special Permit when in the next section it takes 4 votes to revoke the special permit?

C. Why does Section 2259 not suspend the permit upon violation of any of the terms of approval and then require a hearing to lift the suspension requiring an affirmative vote of 4 of the 5 members Select Board?

Instead the proposal permits the business to continue operating until completion of a formal public hearing, a lengthy process, and then requiring a 4 vote supermajority to revoke the permit

D. Why is the required insurance limit so low?

A \$1 million used to mean something 30 years ago.

Today it's laughable. Seems like a policy limit of \$10/50 Million would be more in line with reasonable requirements to indemnify victims. Explain this low limit.

E. Since Federal law makes it illegal to sell any tobacco product to anyone under 21 why should Sudbury allow 18 to 20 year olds to enter a gun store to shop for weapons?

F. Issues with Definitions

1. Why does the definition of ammunition include TEAR GAS? Shouldn't TEAR GAS specifically be prohibited.

2. Why doesn't ammunition include shot gun shells of sizes for bird hunting and specifically exclude larger more dangerous sizes ?

3. Why aren't there limits on the size of shell being sold?

It appears 1" To 16" diameter artillery sized gun or rifle shells could be sold under these definitions. Explain

Thank You
Ralph Tyler
1 Deacon Ln



[Len Simon](#)

Question for Select Board Member Janie Dretler:

Do you feel that BEFORE a gun shop bylaw is placed on the town meeting warrant, there should be a task force or commission, whose work is OPEN to the public, which has members of the public on it, whose MISSION is to serve as a forum for public discussion of whether or not Sudbury should adopt a gun shops bylaw, weigh the pros and cons of such a bylaw, and any publicly evaluate alternatives to such a bylaw?

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Questions for Select Board member Lisa Kouchakdjian.

1. Would it be fair to say that this bylaw is actually an invitation for gun shops to come Sudbury, because it identifies a specific zone and location for the for the gun shops to open, and because it has the blueprint for what the guns shop owner needs to do to open and maintain a gun shop?

2. And because it is a zoning bylaw -- it is will be a permanent right for gun shops to have a place of business on Route 20?

Len Simon
Meadowbrook Circle

 [Laurie Glass](#)

1. My background is in healthcare, and in healthcare, everything is risk vs. benefit. The risks seem so apparent and are even the thrust of the article being proposed. Can the person(s) who are in favor of bringing Firearms Businesses to Sudbury, please speak to:

- what the benefits are to our small community
- why this is so important to them
- why the safest measure is to simply not have Firearms Businesses in our community

2. The word behind the scenes, for those of us opposed to Firearms Businesses coming to Sudbury, is that there was an effort to conceal Firearms Businesses coming to our community. Can the elected officials who are proposing this article, please identify themselves and speak to this concern.

Thank you for addressing these questions and for holding this meeting tonight.

Laurie Glass
Goodmans Hill Road

 [Jacki Sousa](#)

1. Why is the setback 250 feet, when so many other municipalities have it at 1,000 feet or more?

2. Why is the allowed amount of firearms business set at two (vs, let's say 1)?

3. If the bylaw does not pass, what are the next steps or possible options?

4. Additionally, without this bylaw, are there any restrictions in place for firearms businesses in Sudbury? Or, could they, for example, open next to a school, with no bylaw setback restrictions in place?

 [William Miniscalco](#)

1. Section 2254, para c: Why is the minimum limit of liability so low? Given the catastrophic damage that can be done by the careless or illegal use of firearms, the minimum limit of liability should be at least \$5,000,000.

2. Section 2256, para b: Why are the separation distances so short? They should be at least 500 ft para d: What are the setback distances? Why is Section 2261 missing? Paragraph d should be deleted: there should not be waivers granted under any circumstances.

William Miniscalco
126 Hemlock Rd



[Kay Bell](#)

1. What federal or state law or regulation obligates every municipality in Massachusetts to provide opportunity for gun shops to operate within their borders?
2. What risk analysis has been done locally or generally to assess the impact of gun shops in a suburban/rural community like Sudbury, and where may I find the results of that analysis?
3. If gun shops are licensed to operate in Sudbury, what specific personnel will be responsible for inspection and enforcement of conditions of the license, at what frequency, at what risk, and at what cost?
4. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2254 c: What does the phrase "for each incident of damage to property or incident of injury to death to a person" mean? And is the liability floor of \$1,000,000 high enough? Is a life ended or a life permanently disabled worth only one million dollars? Why would the Special Permit Granting Authority raise the liability floor based on the size of the business? Doesn't it take just one small single bullet to kill or permanently disable a person regardless of the size of a business operation?
5. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2254 d: How can our short staffed Sudbury Police Department find the resources to take on the time and talent required to review and work on negotiating an effective security plan? Wouldn't we be adding demands on the department without providing additional resources.
6. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2254 f: If the required operational security system malfunctions or fails in any way, should the gun shop be required to close immediately and until the security system is fully functional again?
7. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2254 h: Lighting everything during operating hours makes sense. Doesn't it also make sense to require some lighting outside of operating hours, especially at night to provide security camera video that is most effective?
8. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2255: Shouldn't gun parts and ammunition also be secured? Are those included in the cited regulation?
9. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2256 d: With the small setback of 250 from sensitive sights already so short, can you explain why there should be indulgence for reducing setbacks for the shops from each other?
10. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2257 e: What are the specifications or standards that the Police Chief or Designee would use to assess and approve the security plan?
11. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2258: Among the listed criteria, why is compliance with ADA and MAAB 521 CMR requirements not included?
12. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2258 c: What are the specifications to fulfill the requirement to secure the refuse area (dumpster?) against all possible misuses, whether inadvertent or intentional?
13. In the proposed bylaw under 2200 Principal Use Regulations, B 2259: What is the purpose of raising the bar for a vote from a standard majority to four out of five of the Select Board to revoke the Special Permit of an operator whose insurance has lapsed or been cancelled?
14. What safeguards are planned and funded to protect those residents, employees, visitors and customers, from tiny children to frail older adults and everyone in between, who will be so close to an operating gun shop in the event of misadventure, or worse, originating from a gun shop?

15. Would our local Special License requirements be certain to prevent the creation of ghost guns and straw sales, both of which would result in illegal guns circulating here and beyond?



[Jan Hardenbergh](#)

A strict ban will be challenged and will cost money. But how much money and what is the likelihood it will be upheld?

We spent a lot of money to fight Eversource, and more even after we were chastised. Maybe the strict ban people deserve the same shot. However, if it is likely to get rejected by the courts in the end, then this is the best option.