

OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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*First Selectman*

Harold E. Clark  
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Ted W. Hoffstatter

Richard J. Dubow

James A. Saxe

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2012  
MEETING ROOM A, WILTON TOWN HALL ANNEX**

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Bill Brennan, Hal Clark, Ted Hoffstatter, James Saxe  
**ABSENT:** Richard Dubow

**GUESTS:** Sandy Dennies, Chief Michael Lombardo, three members of public

**OTHERS:** Melvin Mason (Wilton Voice), Korey Wilson (Villager), Joan Lownds (Bulletin)

Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Information Meeting on Request for a Noise Ordinance**

Mr. Brennan advised that the public information meeting is being held to hear comments from residents. The Board of Selectmen are trying to determine if noise issues require a formal ordinance or if isolated problems can be resolved in another way. The Board would not make any decisions at this meeting.

Mr. Saxe went over the results of the research that he has done regarding noise ordinances in neighboring towns (copy attached).

Chief Michael Lombardo reported that in the past, complaints have not been numerous and have mostly been matters of loud parties at night, dogs barking, etc. The tools to handle these are already available. There are statutes for barking dogs and public disturbance laws.

In 2010, there were 27 reports; in 2011 there were 41; and to date in 2012, there have been 22. They have found that a summons is usually not necessary because a visit by a police officer is enough for residents to comply. Construction beginning too early on weekends is handled by the P&Z in the permitting process.

The meeting was then opened to the public for comments

Ms. Karen Tell, 247 Whipstick Road – believes that a noise ordinance is necessary. She lives in a neighborhood with a constant noise problem – crowing roosters. This cannot be solved with a visit by a police officer.

Mr. Gary Gerard, Musket Ridge Road – also lives with an on-going situation with leaf blowers and other equipment being used at Silvermine Golf Course. Norwalk has a noise ordinance banning use of equipment before 9:00 a.m., so he believes they are working on the Wilton side of the course in the early morning because we have no restrictions.

In the past, he has also had problems with howling dogs. When contacting the PD or Animal Control, he was told that he had to document the time and duration of noise for three consecutive weeks. He cited from the Larchmont NY noise ordinance limiting hours of lawn equipment use and animals that make continuous noise.

Mr. Brennan suggested that perhaps the Town could reach out to Wilton members of the Silvermine Golf Course and the course management in an attempt to solve this problem. He then thanked those in attendance for their comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

  
Jan Andras  
Recording Clerk  
(taken from video)

## **What is a Noise Ordinance?**

A noise ordinance is a law created at local levels that pertains to the amount of noise, duration of noise, and source of sounds other than ambient noise that affect a community's inhabitants. Basically, a noise ordinance defines which sounds are and are not acceptable at any given time so that residents can live comfortably within a community in terms of the sounds that they hear. A city or county noise ordinance is usually effective during certain times of the day. A noise ordinance typically applies at night during the times when most people sleep. Violations of a noise ordinance are often reported to police or local officials by individuals who are disturbed by sound and feel that an ordinance has been violated.

Sounds or noises that are usually defined in a noise ordinance are those commonly produced by residents, but many ordinances also include industrial and commercial facilities if they are located near residential areas. Examples of noises that might violate a noise ordinance are barking dogs, loud music, power tools, cars or motorcycles with excessively loud engines, fireworks or explosives, and shouting. A noise ordinance is designed to keep a community's residents comfortable in their own homes. In other words, if you can hear noises while trying to sleep and those noises are intentionally caused by other residents in the area, you could report a violation of a noise ordinance. Many people have conflicting views of ordinances that limit sound, with the opposition claiming that such laws violate certain rights.

Noise ordinances are handled differently by every community, with some local officials continually reviewing their community's noise ordinance and updating it as necessary. Some smaller communities may not enforce a noise ordinance at all. Other communities find that enforcing an existing noise ordinance is difficult because of different interpretations of the law.

**Town of Wilton Summary Review of Neighboring  
Community Noise Ordinances 08/06/12 - Draft**

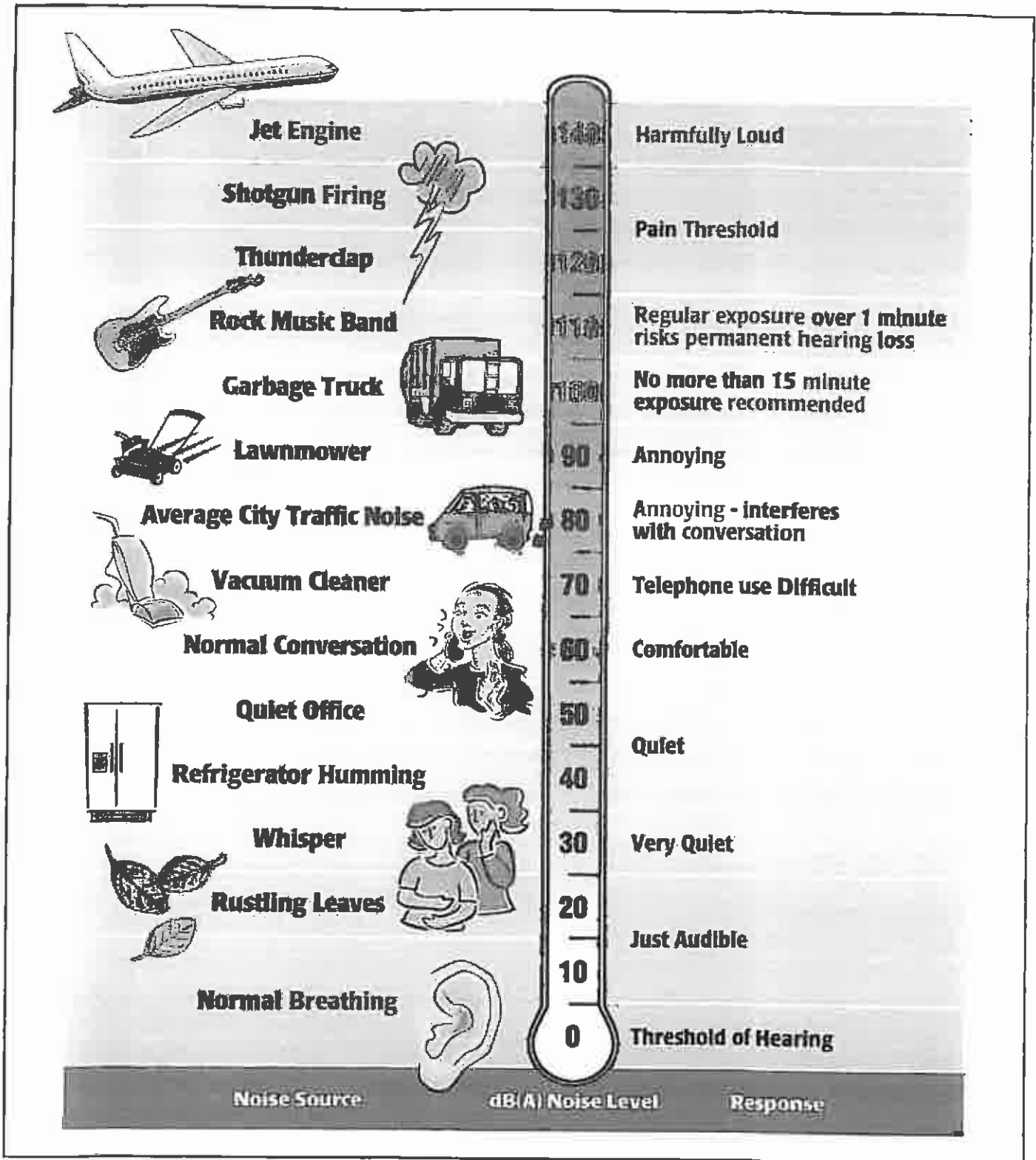
<b>Neighboring Communities with Noise Ordinances</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Darien		✓	
Easton		✓	
Greenwich	✓		06/25/96
New Canaan	✓		04/28/06
Norwalk	✓		
Redding	✓	✓	
Ridgefield	✓		
Weston		✓	
Westport		✓	

<b>Sampling of Times and db Levels*</b>	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Holidays</b>
<b>Time Before/After</b>	<b>7 AM – 7/8PM</b>	<b>8AM – 6/8 PM</b>	<b>10 AM – 4 PM</b>	<b>Same as Sunday</b>
<b>Residence Day/Night</b>	<b>55/45 db</b>	<b>55/45 db</b>	<b>55/45 db</b>	<b>Norwalk Only</b>
<b>Business Day/Night</b>	<b>62/45 db</b>	<b>55/45 db</b>	<b>55/45 db</b>	<b>Norwalk Only</b>

\* As measured at receptor's property line

<b>Sample Noise Type Included</b>	<b>Sample Noise Type Excluded</b>
Exterior burglar/intrusion alarms not terminated within 5 minutes of activation	Bells , Chimes associated with religious observances, or school related activities
Motorized equipment, machinery including lawn and tree maintenance, leaf blowers, snow removal equipment	Public and emergency signals, sounds created by safety and protective devices. Noise generated by activities conducted by the town
Recreational vehicles snow mobiles, motorized dirt bikes, ATV's operated on private property	Warning signals required by OSHA or other state or federal regulations
Noise generated by construction and demolition equipment	Noise as a result of or related to an emergency, including generators public health and safety
Noise generated by refuse and solid waste collection activities	Farming equipment
	Noise created by parades, carnivals or other social events having valid permit
	Noise created by recreational, sporting, concerts, bands as permitted or sanction by State or Town
	Noise created by blasting between 8 AM and 5 PM Mon-Sat

\*\* Typical fine is \$60-\$100



Sources: Melville C. Branch and R. Dale Beland, *Outdoor Noise in the Metropolitan Environment*, 1970.  
 Environmental Protection Agency, *Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Public Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety* (EPA/ONAC 550/9-74-004), March 1974.

NOT TO SCALE



36-05 - JUN 10-100670

OASIS ROAD SPECIFIC PLAN  
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

## Sound Levels and Human Response

Exhibit 5.5-1