

**From:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Bcc:** [Anthony Munchak](#); [John Lanza](#); [Laurance Stuntz](#); [Mark Wolfson](#); [Paul Cramer](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: NOOOO pickleball at Hunnewell!  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:34:37 AM

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Please see the forward below.

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
Office: (781) 235-2370 / Fax: (781) 237-3558  
[www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation)

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**From:** M Collins **Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 8:32 AM  
**To:** Wellesley Recreation Department <[recreation@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:recreation@wellesleyma.gov)>  
**Subject:** NOOOO pickleball at Hunnewell!

[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Recreation,  
I am contacting you as a resident and not as a member of any town committee.

Do NOT consider implementing pickle ball at Hunnewell Fields. The neighbors in this area gladly accommodate many other daytime sports, including tennis, football, lacrosse, softball, baseball, and soccer to name a few. It would be unjust to impose an abusively noisy activity on these neighbors.

If this is proposed, we will collect signatures and provide a petition of 200 or more residents in opposition.

The neighbors are well-organized. It would be unfortunate if they felt the need to take more formal action against this change of use should it be proposed.

Thank you,

Martha Collins

**From:** [Nancy Stakun](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** No Pickle-ball at Hunnewell  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023 8:30:14 AM

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[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

To whom it may concern

Hunnewell is NOT the place for Pickle-ball. Neighbors here will fight even harder, if it is not acceptable for one highly congested neighborhood then it is not for another.

Nancy Stakun  
32 Rice Street

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [dianeleva](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Burlington Pickleball  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 12:03:57 PM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

As advised via the Rec office, please pass on this message to Paul Cramer.

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Paul,

I saw in a recent article that you are working with the Town of Burlington Recreation department and wanted to let you know that the Town of Burlington has NOT resolved the issue.

I live 50 ft from the Town of Burlington Pickleball courts at Simonds Park and to date there has been no resolution for the abutting neighbors. I wanted to share with you that the Acoustiblok panels do NOT reduce the sound to an acceptable level to neighbors in close proximity, and I would hate to see another town spend taxpayer money to solve the problem. Moving the courts to a non-residential area or indoors are really the only solutions. Unfortunately, people that do not live near pickleball courts cannot understand how this noise is different than any other noise created by recreational activities, and it greatly impacts the quality of life of those living in close proximity.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,  
Diane

**From:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Bcc:** [Anthony Munchak](#); [John Lanza](#); [Laurance Stuntz](#); [Mark Wolfson](#); [Paul Cramer](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Pickleball hearing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 10:12:47 PM

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Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
Office: (781) 235-2370 / Fax: (781) 237-3558  
[www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation)

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**From:** Linden Square Unit 49  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 10:04 PM  
**To:** Wellesley Recreation Department <[recreation@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:recreation@wellesleyma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Pickleball hearing

[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hello,  
We're unable to attend the meeting tomorrow morning, but we wanted to share a comment. We live near Sprague Field, and we're concerned about noise levels from the pickleball courts that are very close to our home. We both work from home several days per week, and pickleball is a steady source of noise throughout the work day, even on some winter days. Spring through fall, we hear it all day, every day.

We don't want to stop people from playing a sport they enjoy. Due to the inherent noise, pickleball would be a better fit for courts like Hunnewell's, which aren't adjacent to any homes at all.

Thanks,  
David & Emily

**From:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Cc:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Bcc:** [Wendy Paul](#); [Beth Sullivan Woods](#); [Linda Chow](#); [Catherine.Mirick](#); [Schmitt, Brandon](#); [Anthony Munchak](#); [John Lanza](#); [Laurance Stuntz](#); [Mark Wolfson](#); [Paul Cramer](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: resident email/ March 3, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting speaker information and zoom link  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:41:45 PM

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This resident is on the speaker list but may be able to speak tomorrow morning.

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
Office: (781) 235-2370 / Fax: (781) 237-3558  
[www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation)

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**From:** Evelina Taber  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:38 PM  
**To:** Chin, Matthew <[mchin@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:mchin@wellesleyma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: March 3, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting speaker information and zoom link

[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Matthew,

I am not feeling well so it is not likely I will be able to join the zoom. That being said, I want to express my concerns with taking away the Sprague Pickleball courts. Those courts are on a RECREATION FIELD and as such should not be restricted on use. I understand there is some frustration about the noise but those that live abutting those courts also enjoy the benefits of living near tennis courts and open fields. With the good, there is also sometimes bad. The

pickleball courts not only get people of all ages OUTSIDE, but also allow for families to exercise together and as a community. There are not many options for that in Wellesley and it would be a shame to take that away. Further, you will only be pushing the problem somewhere else, like Perrin Park. I hope you consider maybe having a “start time” of not before 8:30am or 9:00am in order to make sure everyone is being considered in the equation.

Best,  
Evelina

On Mar 2, 2023, at 4:13 PM, Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Thank you for participating in tomorrow's Recreation Commission meeting, March 3, 2023 at 8 am. The intent of this meeting is for you to be able to voice your concerns & make statements to the Recreation Commission regarding the Sprague courts. The Commission will take your feedback to synthesize and discuss at a later meeting. Please do not expect feedback from the Commission and no official decisions will be made at this meeting.

Below you will find the meeting zoom link, logistics on how the meeting will proceed and attached is the speaking order for the meeting.

Any questions, please let me know.

Matt

- Please state your name and address before making your statement
- Speakers will be kept to a strict three (3) minutes or less time limit
- Clock will start when you state your name and address.
- We suggest using a timer on your phone or computer when making your statement to manage time left to speak.
  - If you do run out of time, please email over your additional thoughts after the meeting and that email will be forwarded.

Topic: Rec Com March 3rd

Time: Mar 3, 2023 08:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89500794615?  
pwd=MUU0STdNa1Z3eW5Gc2xaVVVQU1NaZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89500794615?pwd=MUU0STdNa1Z3eW5Gc2xaVVVQU1NaZz09)

Meeting ID: 895 0079 4615

Passcode: 645972

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
Office: (781) 235-2370 / Fax: (781) 237-3558  
[www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation)

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<image001.jpg>

<March 3, 2023 meeting speaker list.pdf><Recreation Commission Virtual Meeting agenda March 3, 2023.pdf>

**From:** [kieran brennan](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 8:57:14 AM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Mr. Chinn, my name is Kieran Brennan. I live at 15 Pine Tree Rd., Wellesley very very close to the sprague tennis and pickle ball courts. I'm writing to let you know that I have no problem with any noise coming from the pickle ball courts. I encourage the recreation department to build more Pickleball courts to encourage the health and social benefits of the game.

Thank you.

**From:** [Greenberg, Danna](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** March 3rd hearing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:04:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

To whom it may concern,

I will not be able to speak during the public hearing on March 3<sup>rd</sup> but I wanted to share my perspective on pickleball at the Sprague courts. I have lived in Wellesley for almost 25 years and while my children greatly benefitted from the resources and activities of the recreation department as a full time working mothers I had little time for said activities. A year ago, I dipped my toe into pickleball and it has opened up a whole new world for me. I have become a part of a community of 30 pickleballers and the Sprague courts are the hub of our community. We are individuals who are at different life stages, have varied experiences but come together around our love for the sport and connecting. I am grateful to have connected with this group at this point in my life and to have a social, physical activity that keeps me learning.

I understand the abutters concerns and I sympathize. Yet, Sprague is the main pickleball courts in Wellesley. Perhaps there is a way to buffer the noise or to consider pickleball courts in other locations. So that this community can remain active and we can alleviate some of the concern.

Respectfully,

Danna Greenberg Tobin

My work day may look different than yours. Please do not feel a need to respond outside your normal work hours.

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[Danna Greenberg, PhD \(she/her\)](#)  
Walter H. Carpenter Distinguished Professor of  
Organizational Behavior  
Associate Dean of Faculty, Mngmt Division Chair  
Babson College  
781.239.5557



**From:** [Joanna Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball at Sprague  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:08:16 AM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi,

I walk my dogs by those courts daily. The nature of pickleball is very loud and I'm thankful when it is just tennis going on. I had wondered how much noise those balls create and how, if it was disturbing me, how much worse it is for the people in the condos adjacent? Thankfully you are going to address this issue. Perhaps moving it to the Hunnewell Field courts would be best since they do not abut residences.

Also just an aside, tennis people have always seemed pretty chill but there have been some days where the pickleball people are a bit pushy hanging about at the gate to the courts. I'm just trying to walk my leashed pups by the court, thank you very much. My daughter was yelled at by some folks who insisted that the courts are pickleball courts, NOT tennis courts, when she was trying to direct them there (they tried to walk through our yard to get there). Those attitudes speak volumes concerning pickleball and the possible entitlement surrounding this situation,

thank you

Joanna Gilbert

**From:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball noise  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:03:39 PM

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[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Unable to participate in 8 AM Friday meeting but would like to add my name to those who want the problem with the all encompassing pickleball noise resolved.

Play has continued throughout the mild winter which has meant my spending anytime outdoors on those mild days required being assaulted by pickleball noise.

I live in the Linden Sq townhomes and never thought I would complain about noise—until pickleball arrived in the neighborhood and that changed everything—in an invasive and intrusive way.

Please find a resolution to what is not allowing me the peace and enjoyment of my home.

Thank you.  
Regina Morse

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rob Mastroianni](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** pickleball noise  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023 8:27:32 AM

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[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Rec committee,

What the Globe article fails to make clear is that the science and the law are on the side of the neighbors complaining about pickleball noise. Pickleball noise destroyed our neighborhood for folks living there for 60 40 and 20 years. It would set a great example to be proactive and make plans to relocate pickleball play. Its not a majority rules issue when people are being harmed.

Pickleball play should be located 500feet from line of sight homes and 150ft with sound curtains.

Rob from Falmouth

**From:** [Bruce Share](#)  
**To:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Solution  
**Date:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 7:26:24 PM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi:

I saw on [Boston.com](#) that pickleball in Wellesley was really upsetting residents living near the courts. We are currently in our Sarasota condo community for the winter season and we had the exact same problem here (we have 731 units). We solved the problem by having the head of our pickleball club get the members to purchase quiet paddles. They retail for around \$225 but with a volume discount, every member was able to purchase their own Diadem Vice paddle for \$125 + Tax (\$133.75). We had about 100 players buy this new racket (including my wife and I) and it has worked wonders. In fact, the owners with closest proximity to the courts pooled their money and purchased an additional twelve paddles for \$1,600, which are being used for anyone not purchasing a new paddle. These paddles really do make a noticeable difference in sound.

Diadem also makes paddles for competition, called Warrior Edges. However, these paddles don't seem to make much of an impact on sound.

[www.diademsports.com](http://www.diademsports.com)

I'm sending you this just to give you a possible viable option to reducing the sound from pickleball.

Thank you.

Bruce Share

**From:** [Mary Farr](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball!  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:50:18 PM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Here's some thoughts for the upcoming Pickleball public hearing. Please note that I am a resident of Needham and appreciate being able to play at Sprague when invited. Thank you, Let me add that there's a close relationship between Needham and Wellesley PB, Wellesley residents can reserve Needham courts (as well as Needham residents). We're all one happy community. :-)

### **Why support Pickleball?**

- Pickleball brings a community together. On the court, it doesn't matter, race, color, creed, orientation, etc. We all get along and have a blast.
- Pickleball is multigenerational. Young and old are taking up the sport.
- Pickleball enhances the health, physical activity of the community.
- Except for noise, have you ever had any complaints otherwise? Every player I've seen has been respectful of the grounds, picking up any trash, etc.
- Pickleball is here to stay. Let's find a way to keep this spirit alive!

### **Possible solutions**

I don't think there's anything new here but here's some thoughts on solutions.

#### **Short term solutions**

- some kind of noise dampening material over the fences. (The noise has to be dampened, not terminated. Tennis balls make noise albeit quieter noise)
- donate paddles to the unhappy homeowners so they too can start playing and hopefully fall in love with PB :-) I'll volunteer to teach them :-)

#### **Long term solutions**

- build dedicated PB courts.

Knowing dedicated courts were coming could the unhappy residents hang in there for a year or two or however long it takes.

Thank you for listening  
Mary Farr

**From:** [Laura S. Olton](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 2:18:49 PM

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I have a conflicting meeting on Friday but fully support more Pickleball courts in Wellesley!

Laura Olton

TMM, Precinct D

**From:** [Peggy Tierney Mulhern](#)  
**To:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:35:30 PM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Matt Chinn,

I wanted to add my support to my Wellesley resident friends about playing Pickleball. I am not a resident but have made wonderful connections to many residents while playing this fun and engaging game. It has been an important part in all of our lives. A lot of us are older and now have some time to give to this activity and it is truly a gift.

I thank you for your time and consideration in this.

Peggy Tierney  
Needham Resident

**From:** [Kerry Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** RE: March 3, 2023/PickleBall /Zoom  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023 10:59:34 PM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Matt,  
I think I know who that person is as she was on Channel 5 News re Pickleball Meeting today.

I was rather surprised that several people voiced that those who spoke out were against the sport and they were afraid the ability to play would be taken from them...That was not what people were focusing on. Rather it was the NOISE created by the game. I think all want to find a fair/equitable resolution but I think it will come down to relocating the courts away from residential neighborhoods. I know the "sound proofing" walls used by Burlington MA was mentioned, however, online I found this:

"TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2023

Town of Burlington MA

Clerk Gaffney stated that there was discussion at the last Recreation Commission meeting about moving the pickleball courts out of Simonds Park permanently because of noise. If certain development comes before the board, there could be opportunities in that space for property to be gifted to the town for pickleball courts to replace those at Simonds. There is also a thought to move the courts temporarily to the hockey park at Simonds Park, but with \$30,000 already spent on soundproofing which was not satisfactory, and the change still may not be adequate for the neighborhood. Spending \$100,000 on a temporary situation does not make sense to him and wants to reach out to potential developers to make them aware."

Please share with Paul Cramer.

That has always been my thoughts regarding these walls. They are expensive and don't do a sufficient job...they are a "quick" fix that does not work. The Town would be wrong to spend money in this direction.

Hunnewell Field Next to the Tennis Courts is the best fit as if the court footprint is approximate to tennis courts, should Pickleball be a 10 year fad the space could revert back to (timeless) tennis.

More of my two cents!!! hahahahaha

Have a great weekend!

Cheers!

Kerry

Kerry E. Sullivan, GRI, CRS, CBR

On 03/03/2023 11:46 AM Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov> wrote:

I'm not sure who that COA member would be?

<https://www.wellesleyma.gov/411/Board-of-Directors>

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
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**From:** Kerry Sullivan **Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023  
9:48 AM  
**To:** Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: March 3, 2023/PickleBall /Zoom

[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL** : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Matt

That's fine would like to also connect with pickleball player from Waban st who's on the Council on aging board. If you could send out a feeler to her Re me contacting her.

Thanks again!

Best regards,

Kerry Sullivan GRI,CRS,CBR

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On Mar 3, 2023, at 9:28 AM, Chin, Matthew  
<[mchin@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:mchin@wellesleyma.gov)> wrote:

Hi Kerry,

Thank you for your email and participation today.

Ok if I pass along your email to John Maccini and I believe John Smitka?

Any questions, please let me know .

Enjoy the weekend,

Matt

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
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<Outlook-1467905371.gif>

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**From:** Kerry Sullivan  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:18 AM  
**To:** Chin, Matthew <[mchin@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:mchin@wellesleyma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: March 3, 2023/PickleBall /Zoom

[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or **open attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Matthew,

Thankyou so much for the opportunity to speak this morning re Pickleball.

To underscore: My husband and I are not against the sport. We are against the present locations as most are in densely populated neighborhoods affected by the Noise.

My take away was that most people are on board with relocating the courts to one site to create a "community" and the location should be in an area that would not disturb abutters/neighborhoods.

I would be happy to join any group who would like to work on a satisfactory resolution to this "noise" issue that is fair and equitable to both sides of the issue.

Is there a way to obtain contact info for any of the participants?  
In particular John Mancini and the other John who lives on Highland who discussed "Property Rights" and "Dimunition in Value"?

I will be sending an email with my entire thoughts in the near future.

Cheers!

On 03/02/2023 4:13 PM Chin, Matthew  
<[mchin@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:mchin@wellesleyma.gov)> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Thank you for participating in tomorrow's Recreation Commission meeting, March 3, 2023 at 8 am. The intent of this meeting is for you to be able to voice your concerns & make statements to the Recreation Commission regarding the Sprague courts. The Commission will take your feedback to synthesize and discuss at a later meeting. Please do not expect feedback from the Commission and no official decisions will be

made at this meeting.

Below you will find the meeting zoom link, logistics on how the meeting will proceed and attached is the speaking order for the meeting.

Any questions, please let me know.

Matt

- Please state your name and address before making your statement
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- We suggest using a timer on your phone or computer when making your statement to manage time left to speak.
  - If you do run out of time, please email over your additional thoughts after the meeting and that email will be forwarded.

Topic: Rec Com March 3rd

Time: Mar 3, 2023 08:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
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<Outlook-nrg20yvw.gif>

**From:** John Maccini  
**To:** Chin, Matthew  
**Subject:** Re: Pickleball Noise, Randy from Beverly, Ma.  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:22:30 PM

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Sure, it's a waste of time.

-----Original Message-----

From: Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov>  
To: John Maccini  
Sent: Thu, Mar 2, 2023 2:12 pm  
Subject: RE: Pickleball Noise, Randy from Beverly, Ma.

Hi John,

Thank you for the email.

Would you like me to forward this on to the Recreation Commission?  
matt

Matthew G. Chin, CPRP  
Recreation Director  
Town of Wellesley, MA.  
90 Washington St., Wellesley, MA. 02481  
Office: (781) 235-2370 / Fax: (781) 237-3558  
[www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/recreation)

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**From:** John Maccini  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 1:42 PM  
**To:** Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov>  
**Subject:** Pickleball Noise, Randy from Beverly, Ma.

[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL** : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Matt, I will probably send this to the rest of the Town but you are the first. I have been in touch with a man up in Beverly, Ma, thank you Bob Brown, where the town wants to put in 8 pickleball courts 200 feet from dwellings. He is in a group that is opposing the project. They had a meeting with the mayor Feb 28. I hope you understand that pickleball courts are a different animal and they don't belong near homes. I am pretty sure that your Rec. Comm. chair is going to propose sound mitigation acoustic mats and signage as the solution for Sprague. That is unacceptable, the courts have to be removed. Move the courts to Hunnewell, please.

John

Ref Pg 5-6 **Pickleball Noise creates a human health risk!**

[https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/1251156/Willis\\_Letter\\_7\\_23\\_2021.pdf](https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/1251156/Willis_Letter_7_23_2021.pdf)

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Randy from Beverly, Ma. On Thu, Mar 2, 2023 at 1:12 PM Randy xxx <[xxx@gmail.com](mailto:xxx@gmail.com)> wrote:

Emily, I would very much like to speak with you. Much of the news buzz surrounding pickleball is related to its popularity. Only recently are we hearing more about the noise issue. You can get a good idea of the magnitude of this problem simply by Googling "pickleball noise". Pickleball courts are often built on tennis courts in quiet neighborhoods. However, pickleball is eight times louder than tennis and the high pitched popping noise drives neighbors crazy. As I wrote in my message to John, the sound from a pickleball court can be 80 dB at 100 ft. The sound can travel as far as one kilometer (<https://pickleballscience.org/pickleball-noise-propagation/>). OSHA's permissible exposure limit is 85 dB for 8 hrs a day, meaning workers exposed to 85 dB or higher must wear hearing protection! Should John have to wear hearing protection in his own backyard? The sound of a pickleball striking a racket is 120 dB at one meter away - that is what the players are exposed to. According to the [CDC](#), "noise above 120 dB can cause immediate harm to your ears.

Ambient sound in a residential neighborhood is about 50 dB. Decibel/sound is a logarithmic scale, so 60 dB is twice as loud as 50, 70 dB is four times as loud, and 80 dB is eight times as loud (2x2x2).

This is a serious problem that has been overlooked by cities and towns installing courts next to residential areas. The city of Beverly is currently planning to install 8 pickleball courts about 200-250' from houses in our neighborhood. Nearby residents recently met with Mayor Cahill to express our concerns, and ask him to consider an alternative site. We even presented evidence from an acoustic engineer that this should not be done because it will be too loud. He is aware of the noise issue but he is under a lot of pressure from the 'pickleball community' to start construction in March or April. We may be forced to take legal action to stop that construction.

We need help from news organizations like the Globe to amplify our voices and to get the word out about pickleball noise. As a side note, I have a PhD in neuroscience and feel studies should be done asap to look at the effect 120 dB pickleball is having on the hearing of players.

Kind regards,  
--Randy

Randy from Beverly, Ma. On Thu, Mar 2, 2023 at 11:34 AM Randy xxx <[xxx@gmail.com](mailto:xxx@gmail.com)> wrote: Beverly town meeting.

As pickleball has grown in popularity over the past few years, cities and towns installed courts as quickly as possible to keep up with the demand. Only after they were built did they realize this is an incredibly noisy sport. The loud, sharp popping sounds can be heard throughout nearby neighborhoods, and have negatively affected quality of life, medical well-

being, and even property values of residents living nearby. Many communities in MA and across the country have or are now pursuing legal action to shut these courts down due to complaints about excessive noise. This could have been avoided though.

The construction of the courts typically involved experienced construction engineers but since they hadn't considered noise, rarely involved acoustic engineers. According to acoustic engineer (and pickleball enthusiast), Phil Hupol, the sound from pickleball can travel as far as one kilometer in open air. Hills and trees may reduce that to half a kilometer. The noise levels can still be as high as 80 dB at 100 ft, and 70 dB at 1000 ft. Ambient noise is around 50-60 dB, and every 10 dB results in a perceived doubling of the volume. Thirteen residents in Beverly, MA complained to the city about noise from nearby pickleball courts. Those residents live between 380 to 700 ft from the four courts. Noise mitigation strategies can reduce the sound level, but typically only by less than 10 dB. Noise-reducing balls and rackets can also help, but enforcing their use is challenging and the sound-reducing coating on the balls scuffs off quickly on the asphalt courts.

For these reasons, pickleball courts should only be located indoors or far from residences. Further, acoustic engineers that have experience with pickleball sounds need to be involved in the planning and construction of pickleball courts. They may also be able to find noise-mitigation strategies that will reduce the sound from existing courts, but likely not enough to bring the sound back to ambient levels.

**From:** [Lisa Rhoades](#)  
**To:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Cc:** [Wellesley Recreation Department](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sprague  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:03:54 PM

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[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Thank you for your reply. I do not wish to speak. Please read the statement if permitted, but I am a neighboring resident in needham I was told nonresidents could email statements. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 2, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov> wrote:  
>  
> Lisa,  
>  
> Thank you for your email.  
>  
> Would you like to speak at tomorrow's meeting or have your email read into the meeting minutes?  
>  
> If you'd like your email read into minutes, please provide your home address.  
> Any questions, please let me know.  
> matt  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Lisa Rhoades  
> Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:59 PM  
> To: Wellesley Recreation Department <recreation@wellesleyma.gov>  
> Subject: Sprague  
>  
> [ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]  
>  
> Hello:  
>  
> I am an avid pickleball player and writing in support of maintaining the pickleball courts and program at Sprague. These courts are widely used and provide both social and physical outlet for hundreds of community members. The sport is growing, and it remains difficult to find court time with the popularity of the game.  
>  
> While the pop of the ball, (and laughter of players!) may reach bothersome noise levels to some, there are many options to mitigate the noise issue. First, the courts farther from the homes can be used to create more distance. Second, sound proofing can be added, as has been done already in Natick. Third, certainly there can be restrictions on time of day, such as not before 8AM.  
>  
> Moreover, there are NUMEROUS noisy activities in any town that residents are asked to tolerate. This includes lawnmowers all summer long, leaf blowers all fall long, and snowblowers at least in normal New England winters. There are also school gathers and events, road races, sirens from emergency vehicles and so on. Societally, we accept these sounds because they are part of community living and for the greater good. Pickleball may be new at this location, but the greater good and benefits of pickleball outweigh the sounds it creates, particularly after application of mitigation efforts.  
>  
> Thank you for your time.

>  
> Lisa Rhoades  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lisa Rhoades](#)  
**To:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sprague  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:08:39 PM

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[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Thanks so much!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 2, 2023, at 4:05 PM, Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi Lisa,

>

> I will forward your email to the Commission.

> Matt

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lisa Rhoades

> Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:04 PM

> To: Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov>

> Cc: Wellesley Recreation Department <recreation@wellesleyma.gov>

> Subject: Re: Sprague

>

> [ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

>

> Thank you for your reply. I do not wish to speak. Please read the statement if permitted, but I am a neighboring resident in needham I was told nonresidents could email statements. Thank you.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Mar 2, 2023, at 4:00 PM, Chin, Matthew <mchin@wellesleyma.gov> wrote:

>>

> Lisa,

>>

> Thank you for your email.

>>

> Would you like to speak at tomorrow's meeting or have your email read into the meeting minutes?

>>

> If you'd like your email read into minutes, please provide your home address.

> Any questions, please let me know.

> matt

>>

>>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lisa Rhoades

> Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:59 PM

> To: Wellesley Recreation Department <recreation@wellesleyma.gov>

> Subject: Sprague

>>

> [ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO

NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

>>

>> Hello:

>>

>> I am an avid pickleball player and writing in support of maintaining the pickleball courts and program at Sprague. These courts are widely used and provide both social and physical outlet for hundreds of community members. The sport is growing, and it remains difficult to find court time with the popularity of the game.

>>

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>>

>> Moreover, there are NUMEROUS noisy activities in any town that residents are asked to tolerate. This includes lawnmowers all summer long, leaf blowers all fall long, and snowblowers at least in normal New England winters. There are also school gathers and events, road races, sirens from emergency vehicles and so on. Societally, we accept these sounds because they are part of community living and for the greater good. Pickleball may be new at this location, but the greater good and benefits of pickleball outweigh the sounds it creates, particularly after application of mitigation efforts.

>>

>> Thank you for your time.

>>

>> Lisa Rhoades

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Heather Schaefer](#)  
**To:** [Chin, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** Sprague Pickleball courts  
**Date:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:05:05 PM

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[ **EXTERNAL EMAIL :** This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Matt,

Although I am unable to attend tomorrow's meeting, I would like to extend my support for the use of the Sprague Tennis courts as Pickleball Courts. It is so wonderful that the town has been so supportive of this growing sport that is beloved by almost anyone and everyone who tries it....both young and old! I am thrilled at the idea that the courts usage is extended in this way and am wholeheartedly saddened by the fact that some residents are trying to thwart this. I understand that the noise will be different than it was before, but I also understand that this recreational space should be used fully, maximizing capability and inclusiveness.

Thank you  
Heather Schaefer  
Wellesley Resident

## Chin, Matthew

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**From:** Donna Paglia <  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 10:43 AM  
**To:** Wellesley Recreation Department  
**Subject:** Re: Keep Sprague Pickle Courts

[ EXTERNAL EMAIL : This message originated outside of the TOWN OF WELLESLEY mail system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

I'm very disappointed that I did not even get a reply to my thoughtful email. As someone who grew up next to recreation fields, I would think you would have some appreciation for my comments.

It's sad to see the minority always prevailing in Wellesley. The lesson that has been learned in the last 15 years in Wellesley is that the loudest voice in the room wins, regardless of whether it makes sense or not. This observation can be seen with the pickle courts, the lights for the main HS sports field and the choice of which elementary school to build.

I look at the neighboring towns, especially Natick and Needham, and I am jealous of some of the things that they've been able to do.

I am hopeful that one day commonsense will prevail and Wellesley.

Donna Paglia

On Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 8:36 PM Donna Paglia <> wrote:

Hello, My name is Donna Paglia, and I live at 90 Bristol Road.

First, I'd like to give you some background as someone who grew up next to sports fields with a playground and tennis courts. When we moved there, my parents knew that, at times, it could be loud with baseball games, tennis matches, and playground play, but that was their decision. In addition, my town is opposite Wellesley; it encourages outdoor activity. We had a dog park, a skate park, lit tennis courts, 2 fully lit basketball courts, and our track and football field were kept lit every night til 9 pm from April to November. All of this was to encourage activity and to give people who work the opportunity to get exercise in a safe location. It also encouraged kids to be outside versus watching cable or being mischievous. We played coed flag football once a week as teenagers. That is what a recreation department does. Their sole mission is to bring activity to their townspeople.

I'd like to address this request to stop pickleball on Sprague. Here are my reasons for supporting continued pickle play on all the courts;

- First and foremost, this type of decision can set a bad precedent!! What will be next - playground times limited because the kids are too loud. Police handing out noise violations at baseball games when folks cheer too loudly. Most activities on fields, courts, and playgrounds can be noisy.
- Why do the few get to ruin it for the masses?
- You must expect some noise if you buy or rent a home near a park. I suggest noise-canceling earphones. I use them for all the leaf blowing from spring to fall. Every location has advantages and disadvantages - you may be close to the grocery store but far from the school or close to the park but have to cross route 9 for groceries. I live on a bustling street where people speed down the road. These are very few perfect locations.
- A recreation department should be encouraging exercise, not limiting it.

- We live in the northeast, almost the furthest point of the eastern time zone, so the latest time to play pickleball would be 8 pm. In addition, the winters here are brutal, so you can almost guarantee that 3 months will get very little activity.

This request to exclude pickle from these courts is ridiculous. So that you can appreciate the absurdity of this, every radio station and local talk show is talking about our town. These are not real problems. Giving them this airtime is embarrassing for our town.

<https://985thesportshub.com/episodes/wellesley-pickleball-scandal-pickleball-breaking-sound-barrier-chris-rock-addresses-slap-3-6-hour-3/>

I hope the recreation department does the right thing. Thank you for your time.

Donna Paglia

--

Best,  
Donna