

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 09/04/2020 10:11:28 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Glen Field Soccer Extreme Usage

Hi Nancy,

I had planned to call you to discuss the soccer activity at the Glen field this summer/fall but knowing how busy you are I thought that an e-mail would be a better way to communicate.

We have now entered into our **third month** of hours and hours of non stop screaming by soccer players and coaches. Often drills /games/player rest periods are conducted very close to our property line. The constant screaming and the sound of each kick carries right into my kitchen.

It is hard for me to believe that other fields in town are used for summer/fall soccer to the extent of the Glen field.

The noise coming from the field is so loud that I and one of my neighbors have to blast music from our patios in order to maintain our sanity.

One of the coaches told me that they had requested another field, but they were assigned Glen.

The British coaches on the field in July wore masks during practices/breaks/lunch and they tried to keep the kids 6 feet apart (as much as possible)!

Recently I have not observed any of the coaches wearing masks or making any effort to keep social distancing.

On the past 2 nights the soccer teams played until dark. Last night's play continued in the dark as a heavy rain was coming down. Hardly a safe play situation.

To make matters worse, yesterday the night lights arrived. They will be set up to shine directly on our houses, as usual. The soccer noise will now continue for another 2 months.

I don't expect you to do anything since we have been complaining about soccer for years. You heard our pickleball noise complaints and yet you set up a pickleball tournament. Seems that we as homeowners are ignored and continue to be treated as second class citizens!

I know that nothing can be done now about the pickleball, but I hope that you will take my comments into consideration as you work with the RSA to plan next years summer/fall soccer schedule.

Thank you in advance,

Sincerely,

Gail Howard
652 Eastbrook Road
[REDACTED]

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 09/24/2020 12:06:38 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Fall Up on e-mail of 9/22/20: Arrogant/Rigid Girls Soccer Coach at Glen Field

Hi Nancy,

Thanks for taking the time out of your busy schedule to address the screaming soccer players at my property line. The sound of the screams was still so loud yesterday afternoon that I had to blast music emanating from close to my kitchen window (in the direction of the field) to be able to maintain my sanity!

To be fair, I never had an issue with any of the Maroon coaches who were here this summer. They were always polite and did what they could to keep the noise down.

Coaches giving private lessons have also been very polite and have moved away from the house when asked to do so. A coach working on the field with younger girls early in the season was also very polite and made adjustments to reduce the noise level.

The woman that I complained about did move her drill markings yesterday but only a few yards to the left and a few yards away from the fence (towards the school), but not far enough away to make any difference in the volume of the screams that reach the house.

Next time she is here, I'll pay more attention to exactly where her drills are set up, considering that the middle of the field was not in use either of the times she was here except for a little activity at the far corner of the field on the building side.

She did have the girls sit (with their backpacks) on the grass parallel to the street which helped a bit.

At the end of the practice session, she gathered the girls closely around her (with no Covid protections) at the far end of the fence adjacent to the street.

Suggestion: I noticed that the middle of the Glen field is used, but not on days that she coaches. If that field usage pattern continues, would it be possible for her to be assigned the middle of the field for the rest of the season?

Thanks again for your involvement. If things change drastically for the good or the bad I'll let you know.

Best, Gail

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 23, 2020, at 3:59 PM, Nancy Bigos wrote:

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560
thoughtful.

has."

Margaret Mead

" Never doubt that a small group of

committed citizens can change the world.

it's the only thing that ever

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

From: Gail Howard (mailto:[REDACTED])
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Nancy Bigos
Subject: Fall Up on e-mail of 9/22/20: Arrogant/Rigid Girls Soccer Coach at Glen Field

Hi Nancy, I tried to reach you by phone but could not get through to you to discuss the e-mail that I sent you yesterday.

Last night after her soccer drills with middle school girls (guessing their ages) I asked the coach (a woman) if she would mind moving her soccer practice away from our property line. There was ample space to practice towards Glen School and towards the middle of the field (to the left of our house) which was not being used.

She said "no" since she could only play by the fence since that was where she was assigned. I find this extremely hard to believe. I saw that large areas of the field that were not in use very close to where she was coaching or she could move her group towards Glen School remaining on the grassy area parallel to the street. She could easily make the change.

During our conversation, she told me that her coaching location was assigned by you.

Please give me your thoughts on this matter since she showed no concern about the 2 hours of screaming that traveled through our kitchen window at dinner time. She was clearly not going to move her location to accommodate my request. Moving her location slightly is a simple thing that would have NO affect on her ability to coach.

Of all of the coaches who have passed through, she is the first that has refused to move to accommodate this simple request.

I told her that I would be contacting you so I would appreciate a call (or answer to my e-mails) to discuss this situation. If you are not the correct person to contact regarding this matter, please let me know.

Thanks, Gail Howard
[REDACTED]

P.S. As I mentioned in my previous e-mail there was NO effort to social distance nor did she wear a face mask.

Sent from my iPad

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From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 10/24/2020 11:03:50 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; deetrulo@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Dear Nancy,
Those of us living close to the Glen School are still suffering physical/psychological harm due to the noise created by the recently installed pickle ball courts.

The loud noises coming from play/players using pickleball courts has been well documented for years as have solutions for this problem.

With that in mind, please forward me the report from the acoustical engineer who oversaw the conversion of the Glen tennis courts into pickleball courts.

If you are unable to forward me this report, please let me know and I will request a copy via the Freedom of Information Act.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Gail Howard
Cell: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Sent time: 10/26/2020 09:09:46 AM
To: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: RE: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

REDACTED

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560
thoughtful,

has."

Margaret Mead

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committed citizens can change the world.

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

From: Gail Howard [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Nancy Bigos
Cc: Susan Knudsen ; Dawn Cetrulo
Subject: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Dear Nancy,
Those of us living close to the Glen School are still suffering physical/psychological harm due to the noise created by the recently installed pickle ball courts.

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Thanks for your cooperation.

Gail Howard
Cell: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 10/26/2020 03:55:04 PM
To: Chris Rutishauser <crutishauser@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Fwd: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Hi Chris,

I wanted to touch base with you regarding the conversion of the Glen School tennis courts into notoriously loud pickleball courts.

I attended a meeting a while back called by one of my neighbors that included Mayor Hache, Nancy Bigos, members of her team and concerned neighbors. The idea of doing acoustical evaluations of the impacted area was brought up but was quickly discarded. One of the neighbors at the meeting suggested installing padding on the court to lower the noise level. This was done on 3 sides of the court. Unfortunately, the padding did not make a noticeable difference on the volume or intensity of the sound waves reaching our homes from the pickleball courts.

There are numerous posts online, going back several years, describing the distress of neighbors living near pickleball courts. Despite this readily available information, the Village converted the Glen School tennis courts into 4 pickleball courts and despite the fact that the court is surrounded very closely by houses on 3 sides.

Most notable is that online posts by acoustical engineers recommend constructing pickleball courts at least **120 feet from houses**. Other recommendations state that the distance between the courts and houses should be at least **150 feet**.

The Eastbrook Road house most effected by the sound of each "hit" and the screams of the players is located at **321 Eastbrook Road**. Despite the above recommendations by acoustical engineers, there is a mere **42 feet** from the court to the back of the house at **321 Eastbrook Road**.

Also notable is that the owner of a house on Quackenbush Place was so distressed by the sound emitted by pickleball play that she broke down at a town hall meeting. A recording of her comments, expressing her and her husband's distress, is available.

From my research, it seems that towns have noise limit regulations for residential areas. Would it be possible for you or your staff to assure us that the noise level that is being emitted by the activity on the court from 8am to dark is legally acceptable? The sound that can be heard from the backyard at 321 Eastbrook Rd is extremely loud and will undoubtedly affect the home value.

For the time being, is there anything more that can be done to spare the physical/emotional distress that has been thrust upon our neighborhood by the Village?

As residents of the Glen School area whose well being and quality of life has been greatly negatively impacted by the sounds being emitted from these courts, we would greatly appreciate any action that you can take to resolve this problem and restore our quality of life.

Thank you so much for all that you do (and that you have done) for our neighborhood!

Thanks again!

Gail Howard

C- [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Date: October 26, 2020 at 9:09:34 AM EDT
To: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to Into Pickleball Courts

Cell,

Good morning, unfortunately I do not have a copy of the report from the acoustical engineer. That document might be available through the Engineering Division who was an advisor of the Village municipal government. I'm interested in the conversion of the tennis courts along with Glen Mayor Hatcher and the Village Manager.

Sorry, but I'm at a loss for help.

Stay well.

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560

f. 201.652.5498

" Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,

committed citizens can change the world. Indeed,
it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

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

From: Gail Howard [mailto:REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2020 11:04 AM

To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>

Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>; Dawn Cetrulo <dcetrulo@ridgewoodnj.net>

Subject: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Dear Nancy,

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With that in mind, please forward me the report from the acoustical engineer who oversaw the conversion of the Glen tennis courts into pickleball courts.

If you are unable to forward me this report, please let me know and I will request a copy via the Freedom of Information Act.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Gail Howard

Cell: REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

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From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 10/26/2020 04:01:14 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Hi Nancy,
Thanks for your quick response.
Gail

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 26, 2020, at 9:09 AM, Nancy Bigos wrote:

This is a copy of the report from the acoustical engineer, that document might be available through the Engineering Division who was another section of the Village Municipal government independent of the conversion of the tennis courts, along with their mayor and the Village Manager.

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

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Margaret Mead

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

From: Gail Howard [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Nancy Bigos
Cc: Susan Knudsen ; Dawn Cetrulo
Subject: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Dear Nancy,
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If you are unable to forward me this report, please let me know and I will request a copy via the Freedom of Information Act.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Gail Howard
Cell: [REDACTED]

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From: Chris Rutishauser <crutishauser@ridgewoodnj.net>
Sent time: 10/26/2020 04:26:58 PM
To: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts
Attachments: Chapter 222 Power Tool Noise Ordinance.pdf

REDACTED

The Village does not have a municipal noise ordinance. Chapter 222, promulgated under the authority of the State of New Jersey, is the only noise ordinance in the Village. Copy attached. No one on the Village Engineering Division staff is a qualified noise expert.

For noise the Village defers to the State noise regulations. Noise is a very subjective condition to enforce. The Village does not have a detailed noise ordinance, deferring to the State of New Jersey regulations promulgated in N.J.A.C. 7:29.

State regulation generally follows two tracks. One is a noise ordinance, dealing with specific sound levels which are codified in N.J.A.C. 7:29. This sets maximum sound level standards are 50 decibels during the nighttime (10:00 pm to 7:00 am) and 55 decibels during the daytime. Noise needs to be measured by a qualified noise investigator using a calibrated sound meter (we have no one with these qualifications on staff).

The second track is noise as a public health nuisance under N.J.S.A. 26:3-44 as enforced by the local health agency. While this, any noise injurious to public health is a nuisance. Again it is subjective.

Enforcement has to be by a qualified expert. Even then, any noise under 55 decibels daytime would not be a violation, even if it were audible off of the source property.

You mention Acoustical Engineers' staffing comments in your email. I hope for clarity that they are regulated licensed in the State of New Jersey. The State Board of Professional Engineers takes a very dim view of non-licensed individuals trying to represent themselves as engineers when they are not.

The Engineering Division does not have any technical evaluation for the Glen School courts. What we do have is the specification sheet for the noise mitigating panels that were installed.

Sorry, this may not be what you wanted to hear.

Chris Rutishauser, P.E., CPWM
Director of Public Works/Village Engineer
Village of Ridgewood
131 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
(201) 670-5500, ext. 239

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Chris Rutishauser <crutishauser@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Fwd: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Hi Chris,

I wanted to touch base with you regarding the conversion of the Glen School tennis courts into notoriously loud pickleball courts.

I attended a meeting a while back called by one of my neighbors that included Mayor Hache, Nancy Bigos, members of her team and concerned neighbors. The idea of doing acoustical evaluations of the impacted area was brought up but was quickly discarded. One of the neighbors at the meeting suggested installing padding on the court to lower the noise level. This was done on 3 sides of the court. Unfortunately, the padding did not make a noticeable difference on the volume or intensity of the sound waves reaching our homes from the pickleball courts.

There are numerous posts online, going back several years, describing the distress of neighbors living near pickleball courts. Despite this readily available information, the Village converted the Glen School tennis courts into 4 pickleball courts and despite

the fact that the court is surrounded very closely by houses on 3 sides.

Most notable is that online posts by acoustical engineers recommend constructing pickleball courts at least 120 feet from houses. Other recommendations state that the distance between the courts and houses should be at least 150 feet.

The Eastbrook Road house most effected by the sound of each "hit" and the screams of the players is located at 321 Eastbrook Road. Despite the above recommendations by acoustical engineers, there is a mere 42 feet from the court to the back of the house at 321 Eastbrook Road.

Also notable is that the owner of a house on Quackenbush Place was so distressed by the sound emitted by pickleball play that she broke down at a town hall meeting. A recording of her comments, expressing her and her husband's distress, is available.

From my research, it seems that towns have noise limit regulations for residential areas. Would it be possible for you or your staff to assure us that the noise level that is being emitted by the activity on the court from 8am to dark is legally acceptable? The sound that can be heard from the backyard at 321 Eastbrook Rd is extremely loud and will undoubtedly affect the home value.

For the time being, is there anything more that can be done to spare the physical/emotional distress that has been thrust upon our neighborhood by the Village?

As residents of the Glen School area whose well being and quality of life has been greatly negatively impacted by the sounds being emitted from these courts, we would greatly appreciate any action that you can take to resolve this problem and restore our quality of life.

Thank you so much for all that you do (and that you have done) for our neighborhood!

Thanks again!

Gail Howard

C- [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>

Date: October 26, 2020 at 9:09:34 AM EDT

To: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>

Subject: RE: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

REDACTED

Good morning, unfortunately I do not have a copy of the report from the acoustical engineer. That document might be available through the Engineering Division who was another meeting of the Village municipal government instrumental in the conversion of the tennis courts, along with Jim Meyer, Rachel, and the Village Manager. Sorry, not to be of more help. Stay well.

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation

The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560

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f. 201.652.5498

committed citizens can change the world. Indeed,
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Margaret Mead

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

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>; Dawn Cetrulo <dcetrulo@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Dear Nancy,

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The loud noises coming from play/players using pickleball courts has been well documented for years as have solutions for this problem.

With that in mind, please forward me the report from the acoustical engineer who oversaw the conversion of the Glen tennis courts into pickleball courts.

If you are unable to forward me this report, please let me know and I will request a copy via the Freedom of Information Act.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Gail Howard

Cell: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 10/26/2020 05:12:56 PM
To: Chris Rutishauser <crutishauser@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: dcetrulo@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Re: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

Hi Chris,

Thanks for your quick response and your detailed explanation of what we face to "potentially" alleviate this unfortunate transformation of our once quiet, peaceful neighborhood into exercise for folks living throughout the town (and other towns).

Looks like our best avenue to pursuit the pickleball noise is as a health issue, which it is. As such, I am copying Dawn Cetrulo, Director of Health and Vital Statistics for Ridgewood for Information on how to Identify and how to work with our local health agencies.

Thanks again for clarifying our only possible avenue for relief.

Best Regards,

Gail

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

On Oct 26, 2020, at 4:26 PM, Chris Rutishauser <crutishauser@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

The Village does not have a municipal noise ordinance other than Chapter 222, prohibiting power machinery use at certain times. Copy attached. No one on the Village Engineering Division staff is a qualified noise expert.

For noise the Village defers to the State noise regulations. Noise is a very subjective condition to enforce. The Village does not have a detailed noise ordinance, deferring to the State of New Jersey regulations promulgated in N.J.A.C. 7:27.

Noise regulation generally follows two tracks. One is a Noise Ordinance dealing with specific sound levels which are regulated in N.J.A.C. 7:27. State noise ordinance sound level standards are 50 decibels during the night (10:00 pm to 7:00 am) and 55 decibels during the day (7:00 am to 10:00 pm). Sound levels are measured by a certified engineer using a calibrated sound meter and have to do with the sound level on a 15-minute average.

The second track is noise as a public health nuisance under N.J.S.A. 26:105 or 106, enforced by the local health department. This, any noise is a nuisance to the public health is a nuisance. Again it is subjective.

Enforcement has to be by a qualified expert. Even then, any noise under 55 decibels daytime would not be a nuisance even if it were annoying off of the source property.

The attached acoustical engineer's report comments in great detail. I hope for their sake that they are engineers licensed in the State of New Jersey. The State Board of Professional Engineers takes a very dim view of non-professionals trying to represent themselves as engineers when they are not.

The Engineering Division does not have any acoustical evaluation for the Glen School courts. What we do have is the specification sheets for the sound mitigating panels that were installed.

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Chris Rutishauser, P.E., CPWM
Director of Public Works/Village Engineer
Village of Ridgewood
131 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
(201) 670-5500, ext. 239

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Chris Rutishauser <crutishauser@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Fwd: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

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Thanks again!

Gail Howard
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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From: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>

Date: October 26, 2020 at 9:09:34 AM EDT

To: Gail Howard [REDACTED]

Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>

Subject: RE: Acoustical Engineer Report: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to into Pickleball Courts

REDACTED

Gail,

Good morning/afternoon! I do not have a copy of the report from the acoustical engineer. This document might be available through the Engineering Division who was another section of the Village that I had given access to in the conversion of the tennis courts, along with the Mayor's Office, and the Village Manager. Sorry, but I cannot give help. Stay well!

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560

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Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>; Dawn Cetrulo <dcetrulo@ridgewoodnj.net>

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<Chapter 222 Power Tool Noise Ordinance.pdf>

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 11/02/2020 06:52:08 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Overhead Lights at Glen - Not in Compliance with Agreement

Hi Nancy,

Please let me know when the field overhead industrial lights now located at the Glen field will be moved to the other location. The agreement with the sports council years ago was that these lights would be moved to the Orchard (?) field for the second 1/2 of the fall soccer season. This has been done in past years.

Much to my surprise, not only have the lights not been moved, but a THIRD light was added that shines directly into my kitchen. This is entirely unacceptable!

As I write this at 6:30pm I can hear the screams from the field through my closed kitchen storm windows.

We are now starting month 5 of screaming soccer players and coaches on the Glen field. This summer and now in the evening we are not able to enjoy our back yards because of the constant screaming that, this summer, started about 9am and lasted well into the afternoon. Soccer play has not abated, the only difference is that now the screaming starts after "school" and goes into the evening. As we discussed earlier this fall, there is a group of soccer players and a coach that scream at the fence that rests on our property line.

As Mayor Knudsen knows, the non-stop soccer noise is in addition to the brain numbing sounds coming from the pickleball court.

Please let me know when the lights will be moved.

Thanks, Gail

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 11/03/2020 10:12:52 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>; Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Overhead Lights at Glen - Not in Compliance with Agreement

Hi Nancy,

Nice that you are worried so much about the "healthy, happy children." What about the property owners, paying high taxes, that cannot be "healthy and happy" due the hours and hours of screaming soccer players and their coaches so close to our property. And now months of industrial lights!

We can no longer enjoy sitting on the patio because of the constant screaming and the sound of the soccer ball being kicked. Surely there are other fields in town that can share the soccer noise burden, even if one field is being repaired for months.

The soccer noise at Glen is not a new problem, but has been going on for years, and never seems to get resolved. Moving around the lights is not a solution, we need noise relief.

Regards,

Gail

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

On Nov 3, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Gail,
This morning during the field committee meeting the need for the lights on Glen School and your concerns were again addressed. With the Glen School field still closed for remediation and the need for the youth of the village to actively participate in healthy outdoor activity, the need for additional field space is at a premium. Members of the field committee stepped in with a plan to install the lights on the field as a compromise to your concerns. Nighttime light shields have offered to remove the lights and work with others and support the need. I am grateful to him. All are listening and addressing your concerns the best way possible.
Wishing you good health,
Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560

f. 201.652.5498

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,

committed citizens can change the world. Indeed,
it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

From: Gail Howard [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>
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From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 11/03/2020 04:21:50 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>; Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Soccer Activity/Overhead Lights at Glen- Other Options

Hi Nancy,

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The pickleball court has been in use all day.

Clearly the night soccer games can be moved to another field instead of Orchard. Why has this not happened? If you are not willing to move afternoon/evening soccer to another location, please tell me why. I will share this information with my neighbors.

Also, please plan on sending me the 2021 winter/spring sports schedule for all fields. Please let me know when I should expect it.

Thank you.
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

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Regards,

Gail

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

On Nov 3, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Gail,
This morning during the 7th Committee meeting the need for site lights on Glen School and your concern were again addressed. With the Orchard School field still closed for re-novation and the need for the youth of the village to actively participate in healthy

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

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From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 11/06/2020 05:19:11 PM
To: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Fwd: Conversion of Glen Tennis Courts to Pickleball Courts Forces Neighbor to Sell House, Move Away...
Attachments: Pickleball statement.docx attachment.html

Dear Mayor Susan,

Although I believe you were in attendance at the town hall meeting in which Joanne clearly stated the extreme personal consequences (emotional and physical) of the conversion of the 2 Glen tennis courts into 4 pickleball courts, I wanted you to have documentation.

Thanks for taking an interest in determining how such a drastic change to our neighborhood was allowed to occur without (presumably) doing any research on the well documented negative consequences of making such a change in a residential neighborhood.

Those of us still suffering both physically and emotionally from the conversion of the courts are very thankful for your support.
Best, Gail Howard

From: Joanne Siska [REDACTED]
Date: November 3, 2020 at 8:23:03 PM EST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Pickleball Info

Hi Gail,

I have attached my statement from the Town meeting which I believe took place 12/11/2019.

I am glad you are still fighting this situation. We were so disgusted by the blatant disregard for the effect this type of thing would have on the neighborhood, we sold our house at a loss and will be gone from Salem Ridge very shortly after living here and paying taxes for almost 35 years.

So we are no longer involved directly in this. But if you ever consider legal action, please contact us as we will join in the suit if possible.

Good luck and never surrender!

Regards,

Joanne & Geoffery Beckett
aka Joanne Siska
[REDACTED]

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 11/08/2020 12:46:47 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Second Request for Winter/Spring VOR Field Schedule - Estimated Date of Release

Hi Nancy,

Perhaps you missed my earlier request for an estimated date of the release of the 2021 sports schedule that includes all VOR fields, time slots for each sport, etc.

It is important that we confirm through the use of this schedule that all fields are being used and that all residents who live close to fields are treated equally.

A request for the detailed sports schedule was also requested by my neighbor directly to Jeff Gluck.

Also, please answer to the question posed in my previous email about moving the last of the fall soccer games to another field since Orchard is not available. There are numerous fields in town that could easily be used for groups of young players. Glen night soccer is not games, but training drills. With this in mind, why is there still night play at Glen, contrary to the agreement reached several years ago?

Please let me know,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

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From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 3, 2020 at 4:21:50 PM EST
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>, Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>, sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Re: Soccer Activity/Overhead Lights at Glen- Other Options

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The pickleball court has been in use all day.

Clearly the night soccer games can be moved to another field instead of Orchard. Why has this not happened? If you are not willing to move afternoon/evening soccer to another location, please tell me why. I will share this information with my neighbors.

Also, please plan on sending me the 2021 winter/spring sports schedule for all fields.
Please let me know when I should expect it.

Thank you.
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

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Regards,

Gail

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

On Nov 3, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Gail,
The members of the Field Committee meeting the need for the lights on Glen School and your concerns were again addressed. The Field Committee will also discuss the need for the youth of the village to actively participate in healthy outdoor activity, the need for additional field space is at a premium. Members of the field committee stepped up with a plan to realign the location of the light tower on the field so as to accommodate your concerns. The field committee has offered to work with you on this project and will be working with you on this project. I am grateful to hear that you are listening and responding to your concerns. The field committee will be working with you on this project.

Wishing you good health.

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560

f. 201.652.5498

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Margaret Mead

From: Gail Howard [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>
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From: Nancy Bigos [mailto:nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net]
Sent time: 11/09/2020 03:35:29 PM
To: Gail Howard [mailto:gahoward@ridgewoodnj.net]
Cc: Edward Seavers [mailto:edseavers@ridgewoodnj.net], Heather Mailander [mailto:hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net]
Subject: RE: Second Request for Winter/Spring VOR Field Schedule - Estimated Date of Release
Attachments: doc Fall field Schedule.pdf

REDACTED

Stay safe and be well,
Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

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From: Gail Howard [mailto:gahoward@ridgewoodnj.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Second Request for Winter/Spring VOR Field Schedule - Estimated Date of Release

Hi Nancy,

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From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 11/10/2020 08:59:04 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Second Request for Winter/Spring VOR Field Schedule - Estimated Date of Release

Hi Nancy,
Thanks for the schedule.

Did you visit the pickleball courts when there were 16 players on the court and 16 more waiting to play? This is usually the case, Please stop by again. Play begins at 8 am every day. You must have stopped by on a rare time when the court was not full. The sound of play is mind numbing and can easily heard on my driveway, in my backyard, on my patio, etc. I can no longer keep my windows open during the day.

Mayor Knudsen had a very different experience when she visited the court.

Gail

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

On Nov 9, 2020, at 3:35 PM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Attached please find a copy of the 2020 Fall Field Schedule for all DOE and Village owned properties. Due to lack of field space, all recreational fields and now even open spaces are at a premium. With the COVID pandemic limiting indoor such as gymnasiums, dance studios, weight rooms, fitness centers, etc., the outdoor use has increased considerably throughout the Village. Please know and understand that the variables for each specific field are different and the use and the participants it hosts must be suitable for that individually sized field, always parking, accessibility and safety are considered, as well as property dimensions and room for others; not all are created equal hence different uses and uses at different times, and at different parks.

I was at the pickle ball courts yesterday, early afternoon, witnessed several players enjoying the game, yes all had badges. I drove down Quackenbush Place, and around to Eastbrook Road and actually parked next to your home for a while to listen for the noise. I had to turn but in the distance I could hear the slight the ping of the pickle ball being hit; there was no one on the field; all after my reply.

The members of the Fields Committee, your neighbor and I are all taking your concerns under consideration and trying to be as fair as possible in meeting the demands of our community. I am training—it does take a Village.

Stay safe and be well,
Nancy

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Sent from my iPad

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Sent from my iPad

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The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

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We are now starting month 5 of screaming soccer players and coaches on the Glen field. This summer and now in the evening we are not able to enjoy our back yards because of the constant screaming that, this summer, started about 9am and lasted well into the afternoon. Soccer play has not abated, the only difference is that now the screaming starts after "school" and goes into the evening. As we discussed earlier this fall, there is a group of soccer players and a coach that scream at the fence that rests on our property line.

As Mayor Knudsen knows, the non-stop soccer noise is in addition to the brain numbing sounds coming from the pickleball court.

Please let me know when the lights will be moved.

Thanks, Gail

Sent from my iPad

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<doc Fall field Schedule.pdf>

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 11/10/2020 10:20:34 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Second Request for Winter/Spring VOR Field Schedule - Estimated Date of Release

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 9, 2020, at 3:35 PM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Gail,

Attached please find a copy of the 2020 Fall Field Schedule for all BOR and Village owned properties. Due to lack of field space, all municipal fields and now even open space are at a premium. With the COVID pandemic limiting indoor use (gymsnasiums, dance studios, weight rooms, fitness centers, etc.) the outdoor use has increased considerably throughout the village. Please know and understand that the variables for each specific field are different and the use and the participants if hosts must be suitable for that individually sized field, always parking, accessibility and safety are considered, as well as proper dimensions and room for others, not all are created equal hence different ages and uses at different times, and at different parks.

I was at the pickle ball courts yesterday early afternoon, witnessed several players enjoying the game, yes all had height, I drove down Courtenash Place, and around to Eastbrook Road and actually parked next to your home for a while to listen for the noise. I had to focus but in the distance I could hear the slight ping of the pickle ball being hit, that was my cue on the field, all else was quiet.

The members of the Fields Committee, your neighbor and I are all taking your concerns under consideration and trying to be as fair as possible in meeting the demands of our community. I am learning...it does take a village.

Stay safe and be well,

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560
thoughtful,
f. 201.652.5498

" Never doubt that a small group of

committed citizens can change the world. Indeed,
it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Second Request for Winter/Spring VOR Field Schedule - Estimated Date of Release

Hi Nancy,

Perhaps you missed my earlier request for an estimated date of the release of the 2021 sports schedule that includes all VOR fields, time slots for each sport, etc.

It is important that we confirm through the use of this schedule that all fields are being used and that all residents who live close to fields are treated equally.

A request for the detailed sports schedule was also requested by my neighbor directly to Jeff Gluck.

Also, please answer to the question posed in my previous email about moving the last of the fall soccer games to another field since Orchard is not available. There are numerous fields in town that could easily be used for groups of young players. Glen night soccer is not games, but training drills. With this in mind, why is there still night play at Glen, contrary to the agreement reached several years ago?

Please let me know,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 3, 2020 at 4:21:50 PM EST
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>, Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>, sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Re: Soccer Activity/Overhead Lights at Glen- Other Options

Hi Nancy,
The Glen field is now, once again, filled with soccer players. My neighbor and I just drove around town and looked for activity on all the town fields and tennis courts.. There was NO activity on any field or on any of the tennis courts except for the courts located at the high school.

The pickleball court has been in use all day.

Clearly the night soccer games can be moved to another field instead of Orchard. Why has this not happened?
If you are not willing to move afternoon/evening soccer to another location, please tell me why. I will share this information with my neighbors.

Also, please plan on sending me the 2021 winter/spring sports schedule for all fields.
Please let me know when I should expect it.

Thank you.
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 3, 2020, at 10:12 AM, Gail Howard <[REDACTED]> wrote:

8

Hi Nancy,

Nice that you are worried so much about the "healthy, happy children." What about the property owners, paying high taxes, that cannot be "healthy and happy" due the hours and hours of screaming soccer players and their coaches so close to our property. And now months of industrial lights!

We can no longer enjoy sitting on the patio because of the constant screaming and the sound of the soccer ball being kicked. Surely there are other fields in town that can share the soccer noise burden, even if one field is being repaired for months.

The soccer noise at Glen is not a new problem, but has been going on for years, and never seems to get resolved. Moving around the lights is not a solution, we need noise relief.

Regards,

Gail

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 3, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Gail,

This morning during the Board Committee meeting that read for the lights on Glen School and when concerns were again addressed. With the Orchard School field still closed for speculation and the need for the youth of the village to actively participate in healthy outdoor activity, the need for additional field space is at a premium. Members of the field committee stepped up with a plan to relocate the light towers on the field to a more appropriate area. Margaret Jeff Glick has offered to remove the situation within 30 days and understanding the need, I am grateful to him. All are working and addressing your concerns the best way possible.

Thank you for your patience,

Nancy

Nancy A. Bigos

Director of Parks and Recreation
The Stable, 259 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

o. 201.670.5560

f. 201.652.5498

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Overhead Lights at Glen - Not in Compliance with Agreement

Hi Nancy,

Please let me know when the field overhead industrial lights now located at the Glen field will be moved to the other location. The agreement with the sports council years ago was that these lights would be moved to the Orchard (?) field for the second 1/2 of the fall soccer season. This has been done in past years.

Much to my surprise, not only have the lights not been moved, but a THIRD light was added that shines directly into my kitchen. This is entirely unacceptable!

As I write this at 6:30pm I can hear the screams from the field through my closed kitchen storm windows.

We are now starting month 5 of screaming soccer players and coaches on the Glen field. This summer and now in the evening we are not able to enjoy our back yards because of the constant screaming that, this summer, started about 9am and lasted well into the afternoon. Soccer play has not abated, the only difference is that now the screaming starts after "school" and goes into the

evening. As we discussed earlier this fall, there is a group of soccer players and a coach that scream at the fence that rests on our property line.

As Mayor Knudsen knows, the non-stop soccer noise is in addition to the brain numbing sounds coming from the pickleball court.

Please let me know when the lights will be moved.

Thanks, Gail

Sent from my iPad

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<doc Fall field Schedule.pdf>

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 11/12/2020 10:27:05 AM
To: Beth Spinato <bspinato@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Meeting Time/Scheduling/Pickleball

Hi Beth,

Sorry to bother you again. I should have mentioned that after Thanksgiving would work best when you are planning the "pickleball" meeting

Also, can I assume that Mayor Knudsen will be at the meeting? I know that she is working very hard to find a solution to the noise problems created by the courts.

Thanks again!

Gail

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 12/03/2020 11:29:24 AM
To: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Pickleball Sound Extreme Today

Dear Mayor Susan,

Today the sound of the pickleball is so loud and disturbing that I had to stop raking and come into the house since the conditions were very similar to those that initiated my first anxiety attack.

I know that you are very busy, but I wanted to reiterate what I said when we spoke about these conditions about a month or so ago. I remember saying that "you couldn't subject prisoners to this type of noise." The constant sound of "gun shots" is intolerable.

Thanks for bringing the group together next week to discuss the rational of locating a pickleball court very close to residences. I and my neighbors appreciate your support in trying to sort out how a pickleball court ended up at Glen when the distance from the pickleball court to houses, based on recommendations of acoustical professionals, is 150 feet. The distance to the 3 houses closest to the Glen court are far less, ranging from

42 ft - 60 ft. As a consequence, due to the layout of the school property, including the empty field, the sound travels much further than most folks can believe.

Thanks again!

Best Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 12/06/2020 05:35:17 PM
To: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>; Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>; Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: OPRA Response - 20.11.9 Howard.pdf
Attachments: OPRA Response - 20.11.9 Howard.pdf attachment.html

Dear Village Council Members,

Attached please find the minutes of your meeting that was held on December 11, 2019.

We, as the Glen neighbors who are directly impacted by play on the Glen pickleball court, are particularly interested in your comments related to the testimonies of

Ms. Joanne Beckett, Mr. Geoffrey Beckett, and Ms. Judy Mac.

You heard the Beckett's testimony one year ago, yet you took no action. The noise from the court forced them to leave the home that they had enjoyed for 30 years.

Is it not your sworn duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of ALL Ridgewood residents? Clearly this did not happen. Other pickleball courts in Ridgewood were closed due to residents complaints, but the Glen court remains open. Will the new owners of the Beckett's former home be forced to endure the same noise pollution that was inflicted on the Becketts?

On our call this Friday, December 11, 2020 please tell us how you plan to address the health and quality of life issues that are a result of constructing the Glen pickleball court much, much closer to a residential neighborhood than an acoustical engineer could recommend.

We look forward to Friday's discussion and learning about the actions that you will take to remedy the intolerable living conditions that you have created for those of us who for hours, every day, must listen to the constant, mind numbing "pop, pop, pop" of a pickle ball.

Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Date: November 24, 2020 at 10:02:46 PM EST
To: GailHoward <[REDACTED]>
Subject: OPRA Response - 20.11.9 Howard.pdf

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 12/20/2020 09:42:39 PM
To: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net; nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net; [REDACTED]
Subject: Follow-Up to VOR/Salem Ridge Teleconference (12/11/20) RE: Glen Pickleball Court

Hi Heather,

I didn't receive minutes from our Dec 11, 2020 teleconference, but I remember that you agreed to meet with Mayor Knudsen on a Friday, in 2 weeks following the call. Since that Friday is a holiday, has a meeting with Mayor Knudsen been rescheduled? If yes, please let us know when that meeting will occur.

Below I have listed the reasons why we, as Salem Ridge neighbors, are so upset about the conversion of the Glen tennis court into a pickleball court:

1. Negative Health Consequences: Two Salem Ridge residents are experiencing anxiety attacks and insomnia related to the sound of pickleball play that occurs 10 hours a day, 7 days/week, starting at 8am each morning.

Obviously, playing time will increase by hours as spring/summer approach. Play is allowed until dark.

2. Private Property Use Curtailed: We can no longer use our property to entertain family and friends or enjoy our houses in the same way that we have done for years. Use of our yards/houses is impossible because of the irritating, offensive noise that is constantly being emitted from the courts.

3. Use of In-ground Pools: Three people in our group have in-ground pools. How can a pool party of family and friends be fun if the guests have to listen to the continuous sound of what has been described as "gun shots."

4. Long Time Residents Forced Out: You are now well aware that you chased a family from their home of 30 years because of the irritating sound of pickleball play and the constant screaming, shouting and swearing of the players. This family moved out of their home about 1 year after the pickleball court was installed.

5: Blame Game: Clearly very little has been done to rectify the ill informed decision to locate a pickleball court very close to houses. Lots of talk, but little action, except for hanging sound barriers (that don't help) on 3 walls. The muted balls supplied by the town are a waste of money. It is impossible to tell the difference between the balls after the sound leaves the court.

The decision to convert the Glen tennis court into a pickleball court to accommodate the wishes of some residents who love the game, has profoundly affected the lives of former and current residents who have a right to live peaceful lives.

Please keep in mind that pickleball is a SPORT! Players come and go every few hours after meeting, laughing, and competing against their friends. For us, as Salem Ridge residents, it has been life altering in a very negative way.

Because there are serious, unintended consequences of the decision by the Village Council to locate a pickleball court very close to houses, it is imperative that there is immediate action to relocate the pickleball court to a more suitable location.

Please remember that is your sworn obligation as members of the Village Council to protect our health, safety and welfare. Clearly this obligation has not been met.

Please call me or Judy Mac [REDACTED] if you have any comments, questions or concerns.

Best Regards,
Gail Howard
[REDACTED]

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 01/07/2021 07:47:53 PM
To: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Cc: lreynolds@ridgewoodnj.net; bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Follow-Up Comments to Public Council Meeting 01/06/21

Dear Mayor Knudsen,

Thank you so much for taking the time to personally visit the Glen Courts multiple times to understand exactly why you are receiving complaints from me and other Glen neighbors.

We also greatly appreciate your effort to explain to the other council members the neighborhood burden of having pickleball courts located so close to houses. I was very impressed that Councilwoman Reynolds and Councilwoman Walsh did research on the pickleball noise dilemma that we face.

It was clear that you and other council members have become aware that choosing a site for a pickleball court (that doesn't elicit neighbor complaints) is not trivial and requires the expertise of (presumably) an acoustical engineer.

I'm mentioning this because the proximity of the houses surrounding the Glen courts are 42ft, 60ft, and 70ft while the recommended distance from the courts to houses is about 500 feet as noted by Councilwoman Reynolds. Houses located within 150 feet of Courts require a careful abatement design to avoid neighbor complaints. Please see article titled "Why Are Your Pickleball Courts Receiving Complaints From Neighbors?" noted below.

With this in mind, if the Glen pickleball courts are **not** removed, the council will be doing nothing more than "kicking the can down the road." If this happens, the Council will be dealing with the pickleball noise issue again as "new" families buy homes close to the pickleball courts and then come to you with their noise complaints.

Even if play hours/days are limited, there will still be hours/days in which it will be impossible to enjoy our homes/yards etc. In the spring, summer and early fall play will increase from 10 hours/day to 13-14 hours/day.

Thanks again for all that you are doing to get our neighborhood back to it's pre-pickleball days!

Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Best Regards,

Gail Howard
652 Eastbrook Road
[REDACTED]

Note: An article that you may be interested in is titled "Why Are Your Pickleball Courts Receiving Complaints?" Written by S&W Acoustics and Noise Control. The company name is Spendiarian & Willis.

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 01/17/2021 11:55:27 AM
To: nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net
sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; pperron@ridgewoodnj.net; lreynolds@ridgewoodnj.net; bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Village Council Meeting 1/13/21- Pickleball Discussion Comments

Nancy,

It is extremely unfair that you met with over 15 pickleball players who were given the opportunity to comment on your proposal to reduce the noise created by pickleball play at Glen, but none of us from the Glen neighborhood were given the same opportunity, despite contacting you and other council members numerous times. This obvious show of favoritism is inappropriate and clearly discriminatory.

The solutions presented by you at the Council meeting were neither reasonable nor practical unless you hire someone to be at the court to:

1. Check driver's licences for residency
2. Check for Ridgewood residency badges
3. Check for green polymer paddles
4. Check for muted balls
5. Check court reservation against ID
6. Assure that Covid precautions are maintained inside and outside of the court
7. Assure that players stay on schedule
8. Unlock the court at 8am
9. Lock the court at 4pm

No decision tree or timeline was presented.

From the desires expressed in the letters read during the Council meeting and from those of us listening from home, it is clear that we all want the same things (ie. being able to exercise and socialize outside with our friends). However, because of the constant "pop, pop, pop" of pickleball play during daylight hours, we are unable to do for what should be routine activities for Ridgewood home owners. Our inability to do these things has created anxiety issues that have resulted in a negative affect on our health.

Also, did you explain to the pickleball players with whom you met, that the noise created during pickleball play forced 2 long time residents to sell their homes and move away? This is obviously a dire situation and therefore requires an immediate, equitable solution by the Council.

However, how can we expect a fair and equitable solution to this very serious noise pollution problem when you have already shown overt favoritism?

With all of these things in mind, it is imperative and only fair, that the pickleball courts remain locked until a suitable compromise is reached.

Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 01/17/2021 08:12:07 PM
To: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Fwd: Village Council Meeting 1/13/21- Pickleball Discussion Comments

Hi Heather,

Apologies!! I forgot to include you on the e-mail that I sent out earlier today. Not sure how I could have done that!

Have a fun day off tomorrow!

Best,

Gail

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Date: January 17, 2021 at 11:55:27 AM EST
To: nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net
Cc: sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net, pperron@ridgewoodnj.net, lreynolds@ridgewoodnj.net, bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net, [REDACTED]
msedon@ridgewoodnj.net, bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Village Council Meeting 1/13/21- Pickleball Discussion Comments

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It is extremely unfair that you met with over 15 pickleball players who were given the opportunity to comment on your proposal to reduce the noise created by pickleball play at Glen, but none of us from the Glen neighborhood were given the same opportunity, despite contacting you and other council members numerous times. This obvious show of favoritism is inappropriate and clearly discriminatory.

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From the desires expressed in the letters read during the Council meeting and from those of us listening from home, it is clear that we all want the same things (ie. being able to exercise and socialize outside with our friends). However, because of the constant "pop, pop, pop" of pickleball play during daylight hours, we are unable to do for what should be routine activities for Ridgewood home owners. Our inability to do these things has created anxiety issues that have resulted in a negative affect on our health.

Also, did you explain to the pickleball players with whom you met, that the noise created during pickleball play forced 2 long time residents to sell their homes and move away? This is obviously a dire situation and therefore requires an immediate, equitable solution by the Council.

However, how can we expect a fair and equitable solution to this very serious noise pollution problem when you have already shown overt favoritism?

With all of these things in mind, it is imperative and only fair, that the pickleball courts remain locked until a suitable compromise is

reached.

Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 01/21/2021 04:00:58 PM
To: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Village Council Public Work Session: 27 Jan 2021: Please Include a Pickleball Update on the Agenda

Hi Mayor Knudsen,
Thanks so much for your quick response!
Much appreciated! I'll pass along your message.

Best Regards,
Gail

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

On Jan 21, 2021, at 3:54 PM, Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Dear Gail,
Pickleball will be added to the agenda on a bi-weekly basis. The first will be on next week's agenda as we work through an article that is a critical policy change. Director Bigos and Village Manager Mialander are working closely on this matter. The managers team will include relevant and timely updates.

Best regards,
Susan

Mayor Susan Knudsen
Village of Ridgewood
131 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
201-670-5500 ext.201

----- Original message -----

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Date: 1/21/21 3:39 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Michael Sedon <msedon@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Village Council Public Work Session: 27 Jan 2021: Please Include a Pickleball Update on the Agenda

Hi Heather, Hi Nancy

Would you please add a "pickleball" update onto the next (and all future) Council Work Sessions until this issue gets resolved?

This is the only way that we, as the Glen neighbors, have to track progress.

Thanks very much.

Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

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From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 01/28/2021 02:34:48 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
msedon@ridgewoodnj.net; pperron@ridgewoodnj.net; lreynolds@ridgewoodnj.net; [REDACTED]; Susan Knudsen
Cc: <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>; Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>; Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FollowUp: Addresses of Homes Directly Effected by the Continuous "POP" of Pickleball Play

There are 7 (not 6 as originally stated) homes/families directly effected by pickelball play. This includes not only the sound of the ball, but for the houses surrounding the courts, the noise also includes the sounds players make (ie. shouting, cheering, swearing,etc).

Eastbrook Road

#311 - located on corner of Eastbrook and Quackenbush directly behind court, "POP" and player cheers clearly audible;

#321 - property directly abuts court, owner lived in this house for decades but was **forced to move** due to the continuous sounds of pickleball play. New family moved in just as the court was locked;

#330 - "POP" clearly audible around property;

#652 - "POP" clearly audible in back yard, side yards and all rooms facing Glen field;

#632 - "POP" clearly audible in back yard, side yards and all rooms facing Glen field;

#653 - "POP" clearly audible on front yard, side yard facing Glen field and back yard.

Quackenbush Place

#429 - property directly abuts court, owner lived in this house for decades but was **forced to move** due to the continuous sounds of pickleball play. This home will be demolished, new house to be built.

Please evaluate the type and intensity of the sound being emitted from the court in conjunction with the owner(s) of each house listed above and 8 accomplished players engaged in play at the time of the assessment/evaluation.

Thank you.

Gail Howard
Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent time: 01/29/2021 01:03:24 PM
To: Pamela Perron <pperron@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: FollowUp: Addresses of Homes Directly Effected by the Continuous "POP" of Pickleball Play

Dear Councilwoman Perron,

Thanks for your e-mail. Much appreciated!

Best Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 28, 2021, at 4:04 PM, Pamela Perron <pperron@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

REDACTED

Pamela Perron
Councilwoman

From: Gail Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: Susan Knudsen <sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net>; Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>; Michael Sedon <msedon@ridgewoodnj.net>; Pamela Perron <pperron@ridgewoodnj.net>; Lorraine Reynolds <lreynolds@ridgewoodnj.net>; Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>; Judy Mac <[REDACTED]>; Gladys Chinitz <[REDACTED]>; Carole <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FollowUp: Addresses of Homes Directly Effected by the Continuous "POP" of Pickleball Play

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Thank you.

Gail Howard
Sent from my iPad

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From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 01/30/2021 02:56:28 PM
To: Pamela Perron <pperron@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Houses on East Glen Avenue

Dear Councilwoman Perron,
Unfortunately, I don't know anyone on East Glen Avenue. If there are complaints they have not come to our attention.

Funny thing is that not all houses, even on Eastbrook, are affected by the court noise.

Those of us you hear from are the unlucky ones!

Thanks for your interest! Your support is very much appreciated!

Best Regards,
Gail

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 02/16/2021 02:55:18 PM
To: Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Changes to Pickleball Court Rules

Dear Councilwoman Walsh,

Thanks for your quick response.

Previously we were told that pickleball would be divided among 3 courts, 2 days at each court with a day off. This was consistent with what Judy Mac presented on her slides at our meeting with 2 pickleball players on 2/5. It surprised me that there was no discussion of Judy's presentation. To me that indicated that it had already been decided that Glen would be the only pickleball court in town, so there was no need for discussion. That means that we as Glen neighbors will continue to have health issues and be unable to enjoy our houses and property. No one on the west side of town will be asked to share that burden. Truly this is a case of "Not in My Backyard!" that is supported by the Council.

Tomorrow I was planning to drop off 2 articles to Mayor Knudsen. One was written by an acoustical engineer, the other appeared in a local Florida newspaper and contained comments from an acoustical engineer associated with a different firm. Both engineers described in their writings how extremely difficult it is to mitigate sound when homes are close to a court. At Glen not only are the houses extremely close to the court, but there is the complexity of air flow from E. Glen Ave. I would be happy to make you copies of these articles if you would like.

I have no proof, but I have been told that noise abatement decisions are being made by members of the pickleball community in conjunction with sales people. This is scary since the abatement methods tried so far (ie. panels/muted balls have done nothing to decrease the noise reaching our homes) and as such are a complete waste of tax payer dollars that were spent during Mayor Hache's time in office.

You may not know this, but the house that is closest to the court (42ft away) that forced the home owner to move is now occupied by a new family that settled in while the court was locked. They will soon learn that they will not be able to use their yard for "kid" things like having a catch, throwing a Frisbee, or even having a backyard picnic. The sounds from the court that surround that home are unbearable.

Please let me know if you would like copies of the articles. I'd be happy to drop them off.

Best Regards,
Gail

Sent from my iPa

On Feb 16, 2021, at 11:56 AM, Bernadette Walsh <bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

REDACTED

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 4:59 PM
To: knudsen@ridgewoodnj.net
Cc: Heather Mailander <hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net>; Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>; Bernadette Walsh

<bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net>; Pamela Perron <pperron@ridgewoodnj.net>

Subject: Changes to Pickleball Court Rules

Dear Mayor Knudsen,

I just spoke with one of the leaders of the pickleball community about changes to the pickleball court that will be discussed at a Council Meeting this month. Again, I am highly insulted that this person was informed about changes that the council plans to make but, once again, we as Glen neighbors were neither informed nor consulted.

I would like to remind the planners, that our *health is being put at risk by pickleball play at Glen*. Our complaints of *anxiety and insomnia are real as were my 2 anxiety attacks*. These attacks were very scary. The happy players who come and go are NOT risking their health. *The actions of the council, of which I just learned, are clearly risking OUR health, as Glen neighbors, but no one seems to notice or care except for you.*

It is imperative that not only the hours of play be cut, but the number of days must be reduced to 2 and the burden shared with other parts of town. *Why are we the only ones in town whose health is being put at risk by the sounds of play?*

Again, why were we not included in any of the discussions but the pickleball community was made aware of plans for change and your planned announcements?

History is repeating itself.

Regards,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

Notice: You are advised that copies of correspondence, including e-mail correspondence and attachments, between the public and the Village of Ridgewood are obtainable by any person filing a request under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) unless subject to a specific OPRA exception. There should be no expectation that the content of emails exchanged between the public and municipal officials and employees will remain private.

From: Gail Howard [REDACTED]
Sent time: 03/04/2021 09:44:40 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net; sknudsen@ridgewoodnj.net; bwalsh@ridgewoodnj.net; lreynolds@ridgewoodnj.net; [REDACTED]
pperron@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Example of Green Paddle Approval List
Attachments: paddlerule.pdf attachment.txt

Good Morning Nancy,

Attached please find a list of approved "green" pickelball paddles, compiled by a community group, as a result of neighborhood complaints.

Will a similar list be given to residents buying pickelball badges? Will the list also be given to the seasonal worker as he/she performs the "check in"?

A few paddles to choose from.....

From: GailHoward [REDACTED]
Sent time: 10/05/2017 11:01:17 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Pickle Ball at Glen School Tennis Courts

Thanks Nancy,

I did go to the Glen courts yesterday after i spoke with you and found out, as you did, that the NY plates were from school employees. NY plates were parked there over the weekend, but there is really know way to check those players.

If folks live in town and drive to the Glen courts, logically he/she could easily drive to designated pickle ball courts.

Painting over the pickle ball boundary lines on courts close to houses would be an easy solution. Also, you may consider sending an e-mail to residents (I receive VOR e-mails regularly) announcing designated pickle ball courts.

My guess is that the folks that play pickle ball during the week do not hold regular jobs, and as such, are there for fun and exercise. I am also speculating that they have no idea how disturbing the noise is to neighbors. Yesterday's matches lasted for 2 .5 hours!

I surely hope that there is a quick resolution. If you haven't received complaints from people living next to other courts, perhaps just painting over the pickle ball lines at Glen would solve the problem.

I am guessing that this issue is minor compared to others you have to deal with but it is big for us.

Thanks for working towards a resolution. I'll be in touch.

Best, Gail

Sent from my iPad

> On Oct 5, 2017, at 9:58 AM, Nancy Bigos wrote:
>
> Bigos

From: GailHoward [REDACTED]
Sent time: 10/05/2017 11:28:24 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Subject: Re: Pickle Ball at Glen School Tennis Courts

Hi Nancy,
I just read your e-mail again.

Are pickle ball boundaries only painted on the Glen and the N. Monroe courts?
If the answer is "yes" please let me know how that decision was made and who made it.

If the answer is "no", please confirm that all of the tennis courts in Ridgewood are lined for pickle ball.

Please let me know as soon as possible.

Thanks, Gail

Sent from my iPad

> On Oct 5, 2017, at 11:01 AM, GailHoward wrote:
>
> Thanks Nancy,
>
> I did go to the Glen courts yesterday after i spoke with you and found out, as you did, that the NY plates were from school employees. NY plates were parked there over the weekend, but there is really know way to check those players.
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>> Bigos

From: GailHoward [REDACTED]
Sent time: 11/27/2017 05:27:04 PM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: tcronin@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Re: Pickle Ball at Glen School Tennis Courts

Hi Nancy, i never received a response to my e-mail below. I have since learned that Glen and Monroe are the ONLY pickle ball courts in town.

Pickle ball continues at Glen, even in the cold, windy weather. Soccer is over for now, but we still cannot enjoy being in our backyard because of the dreadful pickle-ball sound. We can't even rake the yard in peace and quiet.

Has anything been done to get the pickle-ball markings removed?

As requested in my previous e-mail, pleas let me know who made the decision to put pickle-ball at Glen and why. Pls also send me a copy of the **Impact**

Survey as i cannot imagine that the decision was made unilaterally, without taking the distance to houses and how the sound of the carries into consideration.

I hope this issue can be resolved quickly and that we don't have to appear at town council and BOE meetings as we were forced to do to get relief from non stop soccer a number of years ago.

Please respond by Dec 1st. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 5, 2017, at 11:28 AM, GailHoward [REDACTED] wrote:

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On Oct 5, 2017, at 9:58 AM, Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net> wrote:

Bigos

From: GailHoward [REDACTED]
Sent time: 11/29/2017 11:48:16 AM
To: Nancy Bigos <nbigos@ridgewoodnj.net>
Cc: tcronin@ridgewoodnj.net
Subject: Re: Pickle Ball at Glen School Tennis Courts

Hi Nancy,

As a follow-up to yesterday's e-mail in which i mentioned that I couldn't work in my back yard because of the sounds that the pickle ball games create. I tried again this morning to work outside, but sure enough the pickle people were playing again. They have been playing for over an hour and are still playing as i write this.

Thank you for your efforts to remedy this situation. I (and others) are anxiously waiting to hear how this intolerable noise will end.

Thank you ver much,

Best, Gail Howard

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 27, 2017, at 5:27 PM, GailHoward [REDACTED] wrote:

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