

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP  
PARKS and RECREATION**

3092 Sungan Road, P.O. Box 139  
Solebury, PA 18963  
Ofc: 215-297-5702 Fax: 215-297-8402  
soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org



***MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – September 22, 2022***

**PRESENT IN PERSON:** Kevin Campbell, Dan Dupont, Dan Morrin Jr., Nancy Stock-Allen, Kim Wilson, Barbara Zietchick, and Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Associate Member Nancy Wolff, Supervisor Liaison John Francis

**ABSENT:** Marc Blucas, Michael McKenna, Jim Trammell

**OPENING OF MEETING**

Chair Dan Dupont called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE**

Member Jim Trammell submitted an email (which is included at the end of these minutes as Appendix "B") resigning from the Board of Parks & Recreation dated September 19, 2022. His resignation will be placed on the next meeting of the Township Supervisors in October.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***MOTION 22-07:*** *On a motion by Kevin Campbell, second by Dan Morrin, Jr., the minutes of the April 25, 2022 regular meeting were unanimously approved.*

**FINANCE REPORT**

Board members reviewed the P&R budget reports.

The Director noted that the 2022 five-week Summer Camp program was very successful. With a profit of \$8,356, with numerous art projects completed by the children who attended.

**SUBDIVISIONS / LAND DEVELOPMENTS**

None

**REPORTS ON FACILITIES**

Board members reviewed the facilities report.

Mowing operations at various parks were discussed in terms of "less mowing to promote sustainability." And a meeting with the architects to review the proposed public bathrooms for Aquetong Spring Park has been scheduled for Thursday, September 29th.

**REPORTS ON PROGRAMS**

Board members reviewed the program report.

Registration for intramural basketball is in progress. Three clinic sessions will be held in December and the regular season will start the first week of January and continue through the end of February. All games take place at the NH-S UES gym on Saturdays. The Adult basketball program has started (Thursday evenings) and the travel basketball tryouts began on September 19th and will continue through the 30th.

The Director noted that this season's Holiday tile is in production.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Pickleball Sound / Noise**

The Chair moved up the new business discussion on the pickleball court and the sound and noise issue that was raised by Laurel Road residents Richard and Maggie Strucker. Mr. Strucker presented a detailed description and analysis of the issue, along with some history, and provided several supporting documents and estimated costs, (which are included at the end of these minutes as Appendix "A"). Members asked several questions and discussed the issues before taking the following action.

***MOTION 22-08:*** *On a motion by Dan Dupont, second by Dan Morrin Jr., the Board of Parks and Recreation, by unanimous vote, "recommends that the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors take immediate steps to alleviate pickleball noise levels at Laurel Park through the use of noise-dampening barriers, as well as to ensure posted hours of play are better advertised and enforced, including by locking the courts daily."*

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

Board members reviewed the list of events.

The Director noted that Trunk or Treat will again be held this year during the school day on October 31st at the New Hope-Solebury upper elementary school with details TBD. Halloween Community Safety Night will be held that evening at 611 Norwalk Way in North Pointe.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board members reviewed the committee reports.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Signs at Aquetong Spring Park**

Nancy Stock-Allen reported on the welcome and information signs and expects to have something for everyone to review by the end of the year.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Colin Foster attended the meeting as part of his Scout requirements.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dudley Rice*

Dudley Rice, CPRP, CPSI  
Director of Parks & Recreation

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# APPENDIX "A"

## Richard & Maggie Strucker Documents

**From:** [Richard Strucker](#)  
**To:** [Dudley Rice](#)  
**Cc:** ["Maggie Strucker"](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Follow-up  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 29, 2022 12:27:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Solebury Pickleball Follow-up 06282022.docx](#)

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Hello Dudley,

I hope this email finds you well. I know you were on vacation and not sure if you are yet back but wanted to send along this letter regarding the pickleball courts and the noise they are generating in follow-up to our discussions with the Park and Recreation Board back in 2020 before the courts were built.

I have addressed this letter to you and all members of the P & R Board so if possible, I would appreciate it if you could forward to your Board members when convenient and as appropriate. **The letter includes a number of embedded links which I would urge you and your Board Members to open as they read the letter as they give important context to the subject and help to support the narrative of my letter.** Accordingly, it is best to circulate this via email so the links can be more easily accessed.

I know this is probably vacation time of year and many people are away and indeed the Parks and Rec Board is not scheduled to meet this month, but I would nonetheless appreciate your circulation of the letter so that when you do get together, this subject can be discussed in a more thorough and informed manner.

Pickleball noise, as I expected, has become a serious nuisance for us and our neighbors and some remedial actions are needed.

I look forward to your response. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Thanks,

Rich

Richard E. Strucker  
219-531-0211  
[rstrucker@comcast.net](mailto:rstrucker@comcast.net)

June 29, 2022

Mr. Dudley Rice  
Members of the Parks and Recreation Board  
Solebury Township  
PO Box 139  
Solebury PA 18963

RE: Pickleball Courts Follow-up

Dear Mr. Rice and Members of the Parks and Recreation Board,

I hope this letter finds you all well. My name is Rich Strucker and I live on Laurel Road, directly across from Laurel Park.

As you might recall, almost exactly two years ago, I wrote to the Board on June 25 of 2020 to express my concerns for the pickleball courts about to be constructed in the park. My concerns were twofold: 1) that the project was moving forward as a unilateral decision by the Board of Supervisors without adequate planning, without notice to adjacent residential property owners and without consultation with their own Parks and Recreation Board and 2) for the disruptive noise that would accompany the pickleball activity once courts were opened.

That same evening, on June 25, as part of your monthly scheduled meeting, your Board was kind enough to have considered and discussed my letter. The discussions and reactions ranged from surprise and doubt that noise would be an issue or that pickleball would be that popular, to recognition and sympathy for the potential for disruption to the quiet enjoyment of our property. There was also some discussion and expression of surprise that the Supervisors proceeded without engagement of your Board. These recollections are reinforced by a review of the of the zoom video record from that meeting.

At that meeting, and in a follow-up response letter to me from Mr. Francis on July 2, 2020, the proposed path forward was to proceed with construction and wait until the courts were in use to judge the impact first hand.

As you know, the courts opened in April of 2021 and as I write this, the courts have been in use a little over a year. I believe that sufficient time has now passed to allow for a reasonable sampling of activity to evaluate the impacts to the neighbors of the park.

In short, the noise emanating from the pickleball courts is **everything** I expected it would be. Pickleball games create a percussive *sound with a duration of less than a second* (New Jersey's Model Local Noise Ordinance defines this as "Impulse Noise") that travels over distance and is unique to other ambient background sounds. This impulse noise is generated at a higher pitch than other activities like tennis or basketball and thus, the sound is much more noticeable and annoying.

As mentioned in my letter from 2020, pickleball games produce a repetitive “tik-tok” metronome of sound, of *impulse* sound, throughout the duration of the games. In our home, across the street from the park, though nearly 900’ away, we can hear every tik...and every tok...of every game...every day.

To those who may have questioned whether we would even be able to hear any sounds - I can assure you we most definitely can. To those who questioned how popular pickleball might be – I can assure you that it is extremely popular and is becoming even more so every day. The courts in Laurel Park are not lacking for play.

Our experience is not unique – here or anywhere else - as pickleball noise is becoming a real problem in communities across the country. Please see the attached reports and articles:

<https://www.fox29.com/news/in-a-pickle-local-community-fed-up-with-noise-from-nearby-pickleball-court>

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2020/11/13/north-berkeley-neighbors-complain-noisy-pickleball-games>

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-03-03/pickleball-noise-fueling-neighborhood-drama>

We honestly have tried to put up with the sounds from the court but as play has increased, so has the disruption, and yes, it most definitely impacts the “quiet enjoyment” of our property and other properties adjacent to the park.

We cannot sit on our patio and enjoy a quiet evening without the sounds of pickleball.

We cannot watch the evening news in our living room or eat dinner in our dining room with the windows open without hearing the sounds of pickleball.

We have been awoken as early as 6:45 AM on a Sunday morning by the sounds of pickleball through our open bedroom window. A 7:00 AM start is not at all unusual. This morning, our pickleball alarm clock went off at 7:15.

Pickleball continues on some evenings well past sunset until it becomes too dark to see the ball. We have to keep our windows closed if we wish to block out the sound.

Pickleball is regrettably the constant background sound to our lives here now. Yes, certainly some days are less busy than others, but we can count on some activity pretty much every day. Indeed there was even play on the court in December, January and February in temperature in the 30’s.

To the expected question, “*What did they expect, they live across the street from a park?*” I would answer we expected simply what I learned from Mr. Rice when I called him in 2018, before we purchased the property, to learn more about the athletic teams schedules and whether lights might ever be installed in the park. What Mr. Rice was kind enough to share was that the sports teams have their seasonal schedules and that play during the week is typically after 4:00 PM. As the Board well knows, youth athletic team play is not from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, seven days a week, 12 months a year. Pickleball can be. Over the course of the year, there are many hours and many days and weeks of reprieve in the youth sports schedules, but with the exception of bad weather, there are none for pickleball.

We do appreciate that there are posted hours of operation on the courts but unfortunately, there is no enforcement and as mentioned, there has been play as early as 6:45 in the morning and until after 9:00 at night. This lack of courtesy and ignorance of posted rules by players only exacerbates the situation.

To those who cannot imagine that this is an issue or that we are perhaps exaggerating the condition, I would suggest the analogue of a dripping faucet. There are many that can sleep through traffic noise or an air conditioner running or maybe even having the TV on, who cannot endure the drip...drip...drip of a leaking faucet in their bathroom. Not a loud sound, not acoustically overwhelming, but an incessant, repetitive sound that pierces background ambient sound to become a focus.

The noise is everything I expected it would be. Something a simple online search would have revealed had the Board of Supervisors taken the time to do so – *before* construction began. The absence of any research whatsoever by the Board of Supervisors into pickleball and its attendant impacts only helped to ensure this would become a problem down the road. As I understand it, one resident from the Township approached a Supervisor and made the suggestion to build new courts and that became the catalyst for the township to move forward. No research on projected use, no investigation into impacts, no dialogue with neighbors, no engagement of the public and no involvement of its own Parks and Recreation team. Research would have been as easy as a 5 minute internet search. One needs to simply search “pickleball noise” to reveal dozens of hits that not only confirm the issue is real but that also strongly suggest proper acoustical studies and planning before courts are built to avoid inevitable issues down the road. This would seem a fundamental process to be undertaken for any capital project in the Township.

I do not dispute that pickleball is wildly popular and that it is beneficial that the Township has provided accommodation for residents, (and unfortunately, non-residents) to play, but a more thoughtful, inclusive approach may have helped to avoid, or at least pre-emptively address, some of the problems that we now face.

So what can we do?

- 1.) First, I would be happy to work with the Board to develop solutions to help mitigate this irritation and condition.
- 2.) Engage an acoustical consultant to conduct a brief study and to develop some achievable mitigation strategies. Please see attached for a couple of examples of what this might look like.
  - a.) <https://bkl.ca/features/pickleball-noise/>
  - b.) <https://www.acousticalnoise.com/noise-control/why-are-your-pickleball-courts-receiving-complaints-from-neighbors/>
  - c.) <http://www.gvrec.org/Information/Board/Board%20of%20Directors/2014/List%20of%20Presentations/10282014/Abrego%20South-PickleBall%20Noise%20Survey%2010-15-14.pdf>
- 3.) Consider some imposition of restrictions or limitations to the hours and days of use. Maybe a daily schedule of 9:00- 5:00 and more restricted evening hours on the weekend. Probably not popular with players but perhaps more respectful of the neighbors. Certainly, at the least, some method of enforcement to ensure people respect the hours that are, in fact, posted would help.

- 4.) Consider regulations to limit the types of paddles and balls that can be used. Believe it or not, in response to pickleball noise issues across the country, manufacturers are developing materials for quieter paddles and balls which knock down the percussive impulse sound of paddle on ball. This can be readily searched online as well. I would however, confidently predict that this would meet with great resistance from the pickleball community and be extraordinarily difficult to enforce. Nonetheless, here is a link showing this is a real option:

a.) <https://www.pickleballportal.com/gear/paddles/best-quiet-pickleball-paddles/>

- 5.) Investigate and install some manner of physical remedy to block and mitigate sound. I have been in contact with an acoustical consultant with whom I have worked in the past and who works for an internationally recognized acoustical design firm and who, in addition to validating the legitimacy of my claim, indicated the best way to block this type of sound is with a solid barrier wall on the order of 10'- 12' high at the ends of the courts as sound transmission is significantly higher along the axis of play. Thus, this might be most effective on the south/west end facing Laurel Road. He also noted that a vegetative "wall" of shrubs or trees would do little to mitigate the noise and would not be a particularly viable or productive option.
- 6.) Consider installation of sound deadening panels or fabric to absorb and limit sound emanating from the court area. An example of this might be a product like Acoustictex by a company called Acoustiblok. This is a fabric-like panel that is hung on the inside of a fence. Unfortunately however, to be effective, the fence would need to be higher, 8' minimum, 10' preferred, to be most effective. When applied properly this material appears to have some promise with a documented 50% reduction of noise.

<https://acoustiblok.com/2013/04/08/pickleball-court-reduced-noise/>

- 7.) In any event, no matter the remedial measures pursued, secure a commitment from the Township that under no circumstances will additional Pickleball courts be added to Laurel Park. Pickleball use is only going to continue to increase and this park, with such proximity to so many residential properties, is not the place for any expansion to occur, certainly not without significant involvement and input from your neighbors and investment in sound mitigating measures. There are other alternative creative ways to address this need should it arise.

Of the above, a combination of items 2, 5 and/or 6 and most definitely 7, would provide the greatest opportunity for a successful outcome accommodating the needs of both the pickleball community and the surrounding neighboring property owners.

In the June 25 meeting when you reviewed my initial letter, there was both recognition for the potential for disruptive sounds from pickleball activity and, if ultimately realized, a recognition that mitigating efforts would be appropriate and should be pursued. There was a decision to wait and see. We have waited, the courts have been in use for over a year and the noise and disruption are real.

I have lived in Solebury for over 40 years and when we bought this house it was our intention to live here for the rest of our lives or at least as long as we could. The real sadness of this for us now is that as long as we live here, for the rest of our time here, we will have to listen to this repetitive percussive irritating noise, nearly every day, without escape. It's depressing.

With apologies for the length of this letter, I am nonetheless hopeful that you can see my good faith effort to not only demonstrate the problem is real, and that it is not an isolated complaint from a crazy resident, but also that I have made an effort to identify real solutions and have offered to help pursue them.

We very much appreciate your taking the time to read this letter and to review the included links. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns and your help in developing and delivering some achievable solutions to help mitigate this daily disruption to our lives. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely

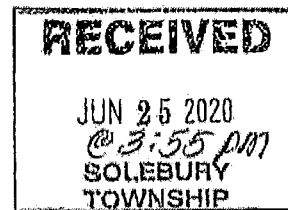
*Rich & Maggie Strucker*

Rich & Maggie Strucker  
6619 Laurel Road

Cc: Mr. Michael Schmidt – Brownstone Dr.  
Mr. David Oshinsky – Brownstone Dr.  
Mr. Jarad Kevorkian – Laurel Road  
Ms. Mary Ann Smith – Laurel Road

June 25, 2020

Mr. Dudley Rice  
Solebury Township  
Parks and Recreation Board  
PO Box 139  
Solebury PA 18963



RE: June 25 , 2020, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Dear Mr. Rice and Members of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit some comments and questions to the Board for consideration at your June 25, 2020 meeting.

We have two somewhat unrelated issues we wanted to address with you, both, however, related to Laurel Park. As a foundation for the issues raised herein it is helpful to understand that my wife and I are 40 year residents of Solebury Township and two years ago moved to a home on Laurel Road just across from the park.

The first issue relates to the new paving project now approved for the park and more specifically, the plan to incorporate two pickleball courts into the paving project scope. While we recognize the Township's efforts and goals to offer a variety of recreational opportunities to its residents and also to offer opportunities that will cater to a broad range of demographics, we wish to understand the Township's commensurate consideration for the neighbors of the park and the impact - predominately noise - the inclusion of this activity promises to have.

On the surface one might not consider pickleball a noisy sport, but by the nature of the game and more specifically, the equipment, there results a consistent "tik-tok" metronome of sound coming from the courts. In short doses this is not concerning, but in larger doses, such as those I would expect coming from the courts planned here, the metronome moves from consistent to incessant.

Full disclosure, I am a pickleball player so I understand how popular it is and accordingly, how popular I expect it will be at Laurel Park. Because of its popularity and limited availability in Solebury and New Hope, we would expect there to be activity on these courts for much of the day, seven days a week from April to December and perhaps longer, depending on weather. This will result in a nearly non-stop, ambient background of ball - on paddle - on ball - on paddle etc. interrupting the otherwise normal quiet enjoyment of our property.

We, of course understand that we live across the street from a park and there are a myriad of athletic activities there along with the sounds that might accompany those activities. Those activities, however have limited times and limited seasons that serve to mitigate a potentially more constant intrusion.

We recognize also that the Township's plans appear to have made an effort to locate the courts as distantly as possible (within the confines of the park) from the neighboring residents. However, from my experience, the sounds of the game will nonetheless be apparent, potentially apparent all day, every day.

Our questions are:

1. Did the Township make any effort to contact the residents surrounding Laurel Park to advise them of these plans? It might be argued that paving has no impact on the neighborhood, but adding pickleball courts certainly does. We were not provided any such notice. If not, why was this not considered?
2. Are there plans to limit hours and access to the courts to at least minimize impacts.
3. Is any fencing or screening planned for the courts that might help to contain, or otherwise mitigate, sound transmission?
4. Pickleball is an extremely popular and growing sport. What assurances to the neighbors of Laurel Park have that future demand will not cause additional courts to be squeezed into the confines of the park?

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated responses to these concerns and questions.

The second issue relating to Laurel Park that we would like to raise with the Board is the issue of regulations regarding leashing of dogs in the park and the associated clean-up after them. We are dog owners and frequently enjoy the park to walk our dog. Always our dog is leashed and always we are vigilant in cleaning up after him. While many other visitors display equal respect for the park grounds, many others do not and the issue of unleashed dogs has become a constant concern.

Currently there appear to be two small signs in the park advising of the need to leash and clean-up after dogs. Neither is in a particularly prominent position and it appears many people are simply not aware of the regulations. Others, unfortunately, blatantly disregard the notices and have often become confrontational when we make an effort to remind them of these rules.

Indeed my wife was confronted by someone who claimed my wife was harassing her, removed her iPhone to start to video the exchange and threatened to call the police. My wife happily invited her to do so. She, of course, did not.

We have reached out to the police to encourage maybe a bit more enforcement, not necessarily in the form of fines, but perhaps just as reminders and they suggested we also reach out to you.

One suggestion might simply be the addition of a few, more visible signs in more prominent locations that visitors can un-mistakenly see as they enter the park.

We think some people just don't know, but we know some people just don't care and will become confrontational when approached. With psyches and temperaments as they are these days I don't want my wife or myself to be burdened with escalations in confrontations over such an innocuous thing.

This is a common courtesy for all park users that ultimately provides a fair and level playing field to help ensure the safety of all pet owners, their pets and the overall cleanliness of the park.

If the Board considers that adding signage might help, as a good faith expression, we would offer to share in some way for the costs of such signs.

We believe the Parks and Recreation Board does a wonderful job in providing recreational facilities and opportunities for the public and hope our comments are taken in a way that can help to enhance the experiences at Laurel Park for all.

Our sincere thanks for your taking the time to review this letter and for your consideration for the issues raised regarding Laurel Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich and Maggie Strucker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rich and Maggie Strucker  
6619 Laurel Road

PO Box 136  
Solebury, PA. 18963

215.534.9242

## Dudley Rice

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**From:** Richard Strucker <rstrucker@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** 'Dan Dupont'; Dudley Rice  
**Cc:** 'Richard Strucker'  
**Subject:** FW: S\*\* Everything you wanted to know about Pickleball noise abatement but were afraid to ask (7/22)  
**Attachments:** Acoustifence - Pickleball Courts at Pelican Landing.pdf; Acoustifence reference.pdf; Acoustifence - Pickleball Courts at Heritage Bay.pdf; AcoustiFence Product Data Sheet.pdf; Acoustifence Pickleball noise report February 2018.pdf; Toscana Country Club - Pickleball Overhead Picture.jpg; Acoustifence - Poinsettia Community Park - Pickleball Court -Carlsbad CA.pdf; Sun City Grand - Cimarron Pickleball Facility Noise Study.pdf

Gentlemen

In advance of your meeting tonight I wanted to forward the following email and attachments from Charles O'Meara who represents "Acoustibloc" one of the sound mitigating solutions I reference in my June 27 letter. I spoke with Charles on July 1. If members have not had a chance to fully research this on their own these documents will provide some valuable insights into the product and its performance.

I suspect this is something we might touch on tonight at the meeting so I thought it might be helpful if everyone had this in their hands ahead of time with the opportunity to read through and familiarize themselves with this potential solution. Accordingly, I would appreciate it if you could forward this email to each of the P & R Committee members. Please note the extensive list of clients in the body of the email.

Thanks,

Rich

Richard E. Strucker  
215.534.9242  
rstrucker@comcast.net

**From:** Charles O'Meara [mailto:comeara@acoustiblok.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 3:09 PM  
**To:** rstrucker@comcast.net  
**Subject:** S\*\* Everything you wanted to know about Pickleball noise abatement but were afraid to ask (7/22)

Rich,

I enjoyed speaking with you earlier and I look forward to helping lower the noise level from the Pickleball courts. As mentioned, I am sending you out my comprehensive Tennis/Pickleball inquiry package with much of the information that you will want to know, including three noise studies that showcase how well our material performs (**Noise is measured on an exponential/logarithmic scale as opposed to a linear one, so every 10dB in noise reduction is perceived as half as loud, and our material performed even better than that**). Our multi-patented, modular all-weather Acoustifence Pickleball noise curtains have been installed on hundreds of public and private courts across North America, from the heat of the sunbelt to the Canadian cold. Additionally, they were shown on a story about Pickleball noise on the national television news magazine "Hard Copy".

Besides the information in the email body, I also attached some flyers about our product and why our material is uniquely suited to deal with Pickleball noise. As you read through the email, there is a detailed description of the curtains, followed by **pricing on the different colors and sizes (see red text below)**, so you can get a fairly good idea as to the cost of material for your project (take the length of your fence and divide it by 6, and that will give you an approximate idea as to how many panels your project will require. Then multiply the number of curtains by the cost of the curtain). There is also a list of cities and four Pickleball references that installed our curtains, and you are welcome to contact them.

### Attachments

- Acoustifence curtains in Pickleball green installed at a Pickleball court in a club setting in South Florida
- Noise Studies:
  - Acoustifence letter of reference from a satisfied HOA showing a substantial 12dB reduction in noise after using Acoustifence
  - Acoustifence Pickleball noise report February 2018 from a prospective customer
  - Acoustic consultant's Pickleball noise report from Sun City Grand, Cimarron, measuring a 9.9 to 15.8 dB reduction in noise with Acoustifence
- Acoustifence benefits and specifications
- Acoustifence curtains in black installed at a Pickleball court in a 55+ community in central Florida
- Stunning aerial drone shot of Toscana Country Club's new Pickleball courts with black Acoustifence curtains
- eFlyer showing the City of Carlsbad's Poinsettia Park new Pickleball courts with Pickleball Green Acoustifence curtains.

### Installation

As for installation, another nice feature of our curtains is that it does not require skilled labor to put them up, though they are frequently installed by fence or sport-court contractors. The municipalities that I deal with either have their Department of Public Works, maintenance people, or Parks and Rec put them up. Country Clubs use grounds keepers, handymen/women or fence contractors put our material up, and HOA's frequently use 'volunteer labor' by having a 'volunteer day'. I have been told that a 3-man crew can put up three 10-foot curtains in one hour, which translates to over one hundred linear feet of curtains installed in a single workday. So, just you can see how simple it is, here is a link to our YouTube installation video for the crew for when they get started. <https://youtu.be/G2nVrKm0p04>

### What is Acoustifence

Acoustifence is a unique 1/8th inch, (3mm x 1.83m x 9.14m) heavy mineral filled visco-elastic acoustical material. It is unique and unlike any other vinyl or rubber barrier material that is currently on the market. It is made in the U. S. A. (from all USA materials) and, unlike fences or shrubs, this material does extraordinarily well in not only blocking direct sound, but also has a tendency to reduce sound from reflecting off it. This occurs as the flexible heavy mass Acoustiblok material actually vibrates from sound, transforming some of it into inaudible trace amounts of heat (sheet lead works in the same manner). Considering that the ideal sound reducing construction is heavy, limp and air tight, the 1.1 lb. per sq. ft. flexible Acoustifence can be an excellent first step in reducing your noise level.

### Acoustifence® Benefits and Specifications

- STC (Sound Transmission Class) with a value of 28/ OITC 22
- The material was lab tested and performance certified by an independent lab, Riverbank Acoustic Laboratories (see attachment)
- Barium Free
- UV Tolerant
- Paintable (acrylic latex vinyl based)
- Hydrophobic (impervious to water)

- Totally non-mold (rated 10 of 10)
- No fungal or algal growth and no visible disfigurement, per ASTM D3273 and ASTM D3274 (rating = 10)
- Tensile strength min. 510 PSI
- Besides having a High UV resistance, Acoustifence material has a High Heat tolerance: 200 degrees F (93 ° C) for 7 day
- Safe for outdoor use in cold climates too. It since it doesn't freeze until -40 ° F (-40 ° C) and is not affected by freeze and thaw cycles
- Less than 1% shrink with no deformation
- Made from over 90% recycled or organic material
- 100% recyclable
- Vermin proof
- Easily washed
- STC 28 independent lab certified
- Made in U.S.A. from all U.S. material

### Acoustiblok Curtains

Designed for use on tennis/ Pickleball courts as well as many other outdoor sport courts, Acoustifence vertical curtains are 6' wide and can be made as tall as your fence requires. Each curtain is made of our Industrial, UV resistant Acoustifence material. Curtains come in Black or Green, and are Internally Reinforced (IR) with additional reinforcement for areas that have more wind (Highly recommended where wind is an issue, which is what we recommend for municipal courts).

Curtains below are priced individually and complete with rows of grommets installed 1.0" in from the edges, along with a matching quantity of 14" stainless steel wire ties (each tie is load rated to 250 pounds). For installation you overlap the curtains by 1" and run the steel wire ties through the overlapped grommets and attach the curtains to the fence. This will allow you to securely attach each curtain panel together to create a gap-free run of Acoustifence and maintain the noise abatement integrity for the entire length of the barrier. The curtains shown below are standard heights that we get requests for. But since we custom make all curtains to order, we can make them to any specific height that you require. We can also make a custom width curtain (less than 6 ft) to complete your fence project to the exact dimensions.

### Start Small or do it All - Do I have to cover all four sides, or can I do less?

One of the most common questions I get asked is, *do I have to cover all four sides, or can I do less?* The answer is, 'it depends...'. There are many variables that come into play, but the simple answer is that if you have one side that faces a conservation area, woods, parking lot, waterfront, etc., where the noise will not bother anyone, you might be able to leave that side open. But if there are nearby homes that are already upset with the noise, you might not want to because of how the noise propagates (and just like with fire, it's always easier to put it out when it's still small. Because once it grows, it takes a lot more to extinguish it).

Another question I frequently hear is, *can we just cover the one side that faces the homes?* That might be possible, but since noise will flank a barrier's straight edges, we recommend adding a couple of curtains on each of the perpendicular/return fences to create what I like to call a truncated U-shape barrier. That will help to contain the noise from escaping to the surrounding area.

Suffice it to say that when we talk, I can give you a better idea as to the feasibility of options for your specific situation. But if you start small and need to add curtains for greater coverage on an existing project, with our **patented modular curtain system** you can always order additional curtains and retrofit them to give you the coverage that you need.

Acoustifence Curtain Pricing shown on some of our most popular sizes (since all curtains are custom made, we can make them any height your project requires). Curtain panel standard width is 6' wide (we can make them less to create a custom width curtain to fill a gap). All curtains are Patented and made with our newest Internally Reinforced AF6 material. Prices shown are for material only (Shipping is FOB Tampa).

**BLACK Patented 6' wide Pickleball noise curtains**

- 8' high - \$520
- 10' high - \$650
- 12' high - \$780

**NEW FOREST GREEN Patented 6' wide Pickleball noise curtains (color not yet shown in photos)**

- 8' high - \$776
- 10' high - \$970
- 12' high - \$1,164

When it comes to noise mitigation, the performance of all of the material is identical. The only difference is the color. All our Acoustifence is made from recycled material, is 100% recyclable and is entirely **MADE IN THE USA**.

**References**

This is from a satisfied customer with Pickleball courts in upstate New York; *Charles, Thank you for all of your help and advice on this project. It would not have happened without you!! Sound benefits appear right in line with what you advertise. 83 max. inside the court. 60 max. outside the court behind the fence (a 20-dB reduction). Hoping this helps keep peace with my neighbors. Again Charles, thank you!*

In addition to the hundreds of HOAs and Country Clubs that I have dealt with, here is a sampling of cities across the country that have purchased Acoustifence Pickleball curtains for noise control.

- Punta Gorda, FL
- Indian Rocks Beach, FL
- Beach Haven, NJ
- Berkeley Heights, NJ
- Livingston, NJ
- Margate, NJ
- Ocean City, NJ     Steve Longo ([slongo@ocnj.us](mailto:slongo@ocnj.us)) Manager, Ocean City Department of Public Works (609) 425-7373 cell
- Ridgewood, NJ
- Borough of Tinton Falls, NJ
- Sea Gate, NJ
- Lower Moreland Township, PA
- Burlington, MA
- Mashpee, MA
- Shoreview, MN
- Sylvania, OH
- Highland Park, IL
- Western Springs, IL
- Carmel, IN
- Ft. Collins, CO
- Cedar Hills, UT

- Clinton City, UT
- Lindon City, UT
- Orem, UT
- Pleasant Grove, UT
- Providence City, UT
- Provo, UT
- Salem City, UT
- Carlsbad, CA
- Berkeley, CA
- Laguna Beach, CA
- Moorpark, CA
- Ojai, CA
- San Clemente, CA
- Yountville, CA
- District of North Vancouver, BC Canada
- Town of Coquitlam, BC Canada
- Penticton, BC Canada
- City of Cranbrook, BC Canada
- Medicine Hat, AB Canada

The following people have given us permission to give out their name as a reference.

**Pelican Landing – Bonita Springs, FL**

Janel Wisniewski

239-947-5977

[janel@pelicanlanding.com](mailto:janel@pelicanlanding.com)

**Heritage Bay Golf & Country Club – Naples, FL**

Tennis Center

Rachel Dindak

239-304-5911

[heritagebaytennis@gmail.com](mailto:heritagebaytennis@gmail.com)

**Toscana Country Club – Indian Wells, CA**

760-404-1590

Cary Collins – Tennis Pro

[ccollins@toscanacc.com](mailto:ccollins@toscanacc.com)

Dee Ahern – Pickleball Pro

[dahern@toscanacc.com](mailto:dahern@toscanacc.com)

**Tanglewood (Hometown America) - Sebring, FL**

Tammy Martin

863-402-1500

[Tammy.martin@hometownamerica.net](mailto:Tammy.martin@hometownamerica.net)

**Acoustifence Reduces Pickleball Court Noise by More Than 50 Percent USA Pickleball Association Test Shows**

Posted by [Thomas Wiseman](#) on Mon, Apr 8, 2013 @ 01:38 PM



(above) The heavy, limp, black Acoustifence material used at the Country Roads RV Village pickleball courts reduced pickleball noise by 10-12 decibels, which represents more than a 50 percent reduction in noise to the human ear. Photo courtesy of Country Roads RV Village Neighborhood Association president.

(above) The Acoustifence is a unique 1/8th inch, 6' x 30' (3mm x 1.83m x 9.14m) heavy mineral filled, barium free viscoelastic acoustical material. It is made in the USA from all USA materials.

(left) USA Pickleball nationals competition match shown. Many pickleball courts have chain link fencing around them which allows paddle/ball noise to escape beyond the court. Photo courtesy of USAPA.

(right) A sharp "ping, ping" sound occurs when the hard plastic ball makes contact with the solid graphite, wooden or composite pickleball paddle.

**YUMA, Ariz., April 3, 2013** - [Acoustifence](#) soundproofing material placed around a pickleball court reduced noise by 10-12 decibels in a sound meter test conducted by [USA Pickleball Association](#) president Bill Booth on April 17, 2012 at the [Country Roads RV Village](#) pickleball courts in Yuma, Ariz. This represents more than a 50 percent reduction in sound as perceived by the human ear the report concludes.

Even as one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States continues to gain new participants and fans every day, pickleball is disturbing some neighbors and communities who don't want the courts around because paddle noise has become a nuisance issue for some people living close to the courts.

In addition to being one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States today, pickleball has spread overseas into Canada, Singapore, India, Pakistan and other places. According to the USA Pickleball Association, the sport boasts an estimated 100,000 adult players in the United States now, more than triple the number in 2003. There are about 2,500 public courts, versus just 150 in 2003.

For decades, the game of pickleball was little known outside the Pacific Northwest United States. Since its inception in 1965 as a backyard pastime, it is now an organized sport represented by national and international governing bodies. While people ages 6 to 70-plus play pickleball and even compete in local, regional and national tournaments, the main driver of the recent growth is the 55-plus demographic who have taken a liking to the sport. They view it as a way to exercise, burn calories, socialize, and get outdoors. More and more pickleball courts are being built in community parks and especially into 55-plus housing developments. Some communities are converting sporadically used tennis courts into pickleball courts or painting additional lines

*on tennis courts so pickleball can also be played. Pickleball is played on a smaller court size than tennis but has a similar court design.*

*More courts, participants, tournaments, and attention to the game has brought on more public complaints and even noise or nuisance related lawsuits attempting to stop play on existing courts or stop construction of new courts.*

*Racquet and paddle sports like tennis, badminton, and table tennis (ping pong) each produce a unique sound when the racquet or paddle hits the ball. In pickleball, there is a "ping, ping" sound made when the paddle hits the ball because the sport uses medium-sized, solid faced wooden, composite or graphite paddles and a hard plastic perforated ball (resembles a Wiffle ball) that is larger, stiffer and less resistant than a tennis ball. The noise generated by the game is louder, sharper and at a higher pitch than tennis which generates a deeper "thwack" sound that registers far lower on a sound meter.*

*Pickleball paddle noise is in a sound classification called impact noise – noise that occurs when an object collides with another object. It is a high frequency noise that is at a frequency that our ears are most attuned to. Through Acoustiblok's analysis and modeling efforts of various pickleball noise related projects, the company says there's one limiting band of approximately 1.25 KHz (1250 Hz) that spikes when the paddle hits the ball. Acoustifence blocks much of the noise and reduces it to below a nuisance level for nearby neighbors, becoming barely perceptible among other outdoor background noises such as automobile, airplane, human, and machine noise.*

*You can hear the pickleball paddle noise for yourself by watching the following YouTube video of a tournament match at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdVMcIDQJIA> [title <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdVMcIDQJIA> title [USA Pickleball Association nationals competition](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdVMcIDQJIA)]*

*Unlike often tried natural sound barriers such as fences or shrubs, the Acoustifence material does extraordinarily well in not only blocking direct sound, but also has a tendency to reduce sound from reflecting off it. Acoustifence is a revolutionary heavy mineral filled viscoelastic polymer sound deadening material which is only 3mm (1/8 inch) thick. It's made in the United States and compared to other soundproofing alternatives, is an economical way to reduce outdoor noise.*

*The ultraviolet (UV) tolerant Acoustifence is hung via grommets onto the top line of existing chain link, panel, security or support pole fencing systems. It comes in 6 X 30 foot-sheets and can be easily cut and shaped into custom sizes with a craft knife. On solid structure fence surfaces, Acoustifence can be installed by nailing, stapling or gluing. Acoustifence is one of the most effective first steps in reducing outdoor noise. The amount of noise Acoustifence reduces however is much related to other reflective structures in the area. More details on Acoustifence can be seen at: [http://www.acoustiblok.com/acoustical\\_fence.php](http://www.acoustiblok.com/acoustical_fence.php)*

*Country Roads RV Resort is a 55-plus gated community which boasts 150 acres of lavish, mature landscaping and 1294 privately owned home sites. The Acoustifence testing was conducted by USA Pickleball Association president Bill Booth. Tests were made using a Sper Scientific Digital Datalogging Sound Meter (model 840013), a S-Type Composite Extreme Paddle, and New Dura Fast 40 outdoor balls. Tests were made with the tester attempting to hit the ball with maximum force for a worse-case scenario. A series of readings were taken both through the Acoustifence sound curtain and with no sound curtain. Readings were recorded with the meter at 50 feet from the point of impact. In the first case, the reading was even taken through the sound curtain next to a nearby home at a point 42 feet from the sound curtain. The paddle was 8 feet inside the court for a total of 50 feet. The second set of readings was recorded inside the court at a distance of 50 feet from the point of impact.*

With no sound curtain, readings ranged from 64.2 – 71.8 decibels for an average of 68 decibels. Through the Acoustifence sound curtain, the meter readings were between 54.7 – 59.2 decibels for an average reading of 56.7 decibels. **The report concluded that an 11.3 decibel reduction in sound was achieved. This represents more than a 50 percent reduction in sound as perceived by the human ear by nearby homeowners.** That reduction in sound takes the pickleball noise from being annoying to someone to being just barely perceptible, the report conclusion stated. The report also recommended that the Acoustifence product be installed on the inside of the pickleball court if the fence posts are outside the court. The report went on to say that homeowners near the Country Roads RV Village pickleball courts who had the most complaints and lived closest to the courts reported a significant reduction in sound level from having the Acoustifence material up. He said that his wife often does not realize that they are playing on the court. At times, ambient noise significantly exceeded paddle noise.

Lahnie Johnson is president and founder of Acoustiblok, Inc., a NASA spinoff listed company in Tampa, Fla., that invented and manufactures the Acoustifence product.

"Acoustifence serves as a barrier and blocks high frequency sounds very well. The material actually flexes with certain frequencies. In the process of sound waves physically moving it, the product transforms sound wave energy into inaudible internal friction energy. It's Underwriters Laboratories listed and has attained an STC (Sound Transmission Class) of 28 decibels in independent laboratory tests," said Johnson.

"Like all our products, Acoustifence is made in the USA with all USA materials. Besides the primary benefit of reduction in perceived levels, there are many reasons why Acoustifence is being used not only in the United States, but across the globe for many applications," he said.

"There are many reasons why Acoustifence is a good solution for pickleball noise. For homeowner associations and developers, Acoustifence easily attaches to existing fencing found around most existing pickleball courts and complexes and can be put up in a matter of hours with a few minor hand tools. It is easily configurable to add height and length so it can be used on fences of any size. The material is paintable to meet the needs of the environment," said an Acoustiblok sales associate who has worked with various pickleball related customers

"There are vinyl photographic coverings for the fence called Acoustiblok landscapes. Hundreds of different unbelievably realistic landscapes are available, from vines and flowers to even antique brick wall, or stone fence photographs. So real one of our customers drove right by their home forgetting they had it installed," he added.

"Acoustifence is also one of the best priced first response soundproofing solutions in the industry".

Melissa Wood is community association manager at Country Roads RV Village. In a related World Fence News article about pickleball and Acoustifence, she said, "I can attest that Acoustifence material is not difficult to install, can be easily blended into the aesthetics, particularly if you have existing wind screens." She added that Country Roads RV Village is located near Phoenix and other communities have seen the installation and have inquired about it.

Besides pickleball, Acoustifence is commonly used to quiet generator and motor noise at industrial sites, highway and construction related noise on bridges, mass transit rail line noise, shooting/gun range noise, and even dog kennel noise. It is also being used at college sports complexes and athletic parks and on private backyard residential fences to create a quieter and more peaceful environment.

"People are discovering that there are a lot of great uses for this modern day soundproofing product," Johnson said.

Johnson went on to say, "We're not just a soundproofing products company, we're a noise solutions company. Sometimes, prior to the sale of Acoustiblok's products, we perform computer-based sound propagation modeling when customers are unsure if Acoustiblok's materials will work in their specific application.

"We use advanced software called Cadna-A, a top acoustical software made by DataKustic used in the prediction of environmental outdoor noise. It calculates sounds through mediums and different barriers and terrains. We have used it for pickleball-related customers who all have a different set of circumstances associated with their noise. We also use DataKustic's Cadna-R software for prediction and presentation of inside noise in industrial facilities, rooms and workplaces."

"We use this acoustical modeling to say to the potential customer 'here's your noise level now without Acoustiblok's material and here's the noise level with our material based on the noise information we have available to us right now.'"

For more information about Acoustiblok Inc., or Acoustifence visit the Acoustiblok website ([www.acoustiblok.com](http://www.acoustiblok.com)), send an Email to [comeara@acoustiblok.com](mailto:comeara@acoustiblok.com), or call 813-980-1400 ext. 3202 and ask for our Pickleball specialist, Charles O'Meara.

Finally, prepare to be amazed. This is a link to an excerpt from the **National Geographic Channel television show, Showdown of the Unbeatables**. We won the challenge by blocking the sound of the world's loudest train horn, a whopping 143 dB. But rather than watch a 30 minute show here is video clip of the box that we built with a loud guitar playing inside. The box is made with our namesake Acoustiblok barrier material, the basis for our Acoustifence (one layer of Acoustiblok in a wall assembly is more effective at blocking noise than 10 inches of poured concrete).  
<https://vimeo.com/123010204>

### **Red and Green Paddle List**

Here is the link to the approved paddle list from the community in Surprise, Arizona. While the list has not been recently updated, it still contains some valuable information about some of the paddles people are using. [Quiet Pickleball Paddle Approved/Banned List Noisy Pickleball Paddles list](#).

Unfortunately, there is no 'Cone of Silence' to completely eliminate Pickleball noise. That's why I recommend setting a realistic expectation so the affected homeowners understand that you can reduce the noise (by 50% or even more), but you cannot make it completely disappear...unless you cease playing. Just my two cents.

As questions come up, I am an email or phone call away. Looking forward to speaking with you again.

Charles O'Meara, MBA | Director - Pickleball Noise Abatement | Acoustiblok, Inc.....*Quieting the world*  
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# APPENDIX "B"

## Jim Trammell Resignation

## Dudley Rice

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**From:** Jim Trammell <jmt@trammell.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 5:04 PM  
**To:** Dudley Rice; 'Dan Dupont'; 'Dudley Rice'  
**Subject:** P&R Committee

Mr. Dudley Rice, CPRP, CPSI  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
Solebury Township  
3092 Sungan Road  
Solebury, PA 18963

Dudley,

It is with great regret that I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign my position on the Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Board, effective immediately.

As must have surmised, I have been struggling with this decision for the whole summer. This afternoon, I received Dan's note trying to figure out who was going to show at this week's P&R meeting, which was the moment of critical mass where I knew I could not commit to this month's meeting or following meetings in a timely or consistent basis. My business commitments have become too great for me to be able to successfully fulfill the requirements of my position on the Board. Therefore, it is best for me to make room for someone with the time and energy to devote to the position.

It has been an honor and pleasure being a part of the Parks and Recreation Board. I am proud of what the staff and the members, past and present, have and accomplished during my participation. I have no doubt that the P&R under your stewardship will continue these successes in the future.

If I forgot to place any township personnel who in their official capacity need this notice, please forward this to them. Thank you.

Regards,

James M Trammell,  
Principal  
The Trammell Group

717-571-1861

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