

DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Deer Management Committee Minutes
October 13, 2010

In Attendance: David Lynch, Chairman; Scott MacQuarrie; Lars Cherichetti;
Kim Young; Frank Mabley

Also in Attendance: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Lars Chereichetti made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 9, 2010, Seconded by Kim Young, and passed 3-0-1, with Frank Mabley abstaining.

III. Ongoing Business

a. Hunter Match Program

Mr. Lynch asked if anyone had any suggestions for a catchy name. None were provided.

i. Qualifying hunters

Ms. Sesto stated that 6-8 hunters have passed the proficiency test so far. The next and last proficiency will be Sunday, October 17, 2010. The results from the background check have not yet been given to the office of the committee. Ms. Sesto will follow up with the police department.

ii. Public outreach

Ms. Sesto described her experience with her presentation earlier that day at Kiwanis. She thanked Mr. Mabley for arranging the talk. Mr. Mabley and Ms. Sesto both thought the topic was well received. There was ample interest. Ms. Sesto

felt she made a mistake by not having sign up sheets on each table – a missed opportunity to more easily collect names of interested residents.

Discussion turned to the website and the absence of critical information. People will expect to be able to visit the website to get the needed information and it will not be there. Ms. Sesto stated she has asked for help from the IT department, but has not been able to make any progress. She will try again.

Scot MacQuarrie was thanked for pulling together the Question & Answer document. Copies were distributed. Mr. Mabley urged member to think about how the documents could be distributed. He suggested a program summary be written and members use their various contact lists to distribute it via email. Discussion ensued regarding comfort levels with this approach. It was decided Mr. Mabley would draft the text and then distribute it and the attachments to members for them to circulate at their discretion.

Ms. Sesto said she submitted a press release to the Bulletin and has been told it will run in this week's paper as an op-ed piece. Mr. Mabley referenced an article by Lois Alcossar that focused on an interview with Tim Fridinger. Praise was offered.

IV. New Business

Mr. Lynch reminded members of the 10/20 meeting with DEP; strongly encouraging members attend. Mr. Lynch will contact Mr. Brennan directly to invite him.

Lars Cherichetti challenged the notion that we can't solve the overabundance with recreational hunters. Historically, recreational hunters have been responsible for exploiting wildlife resources to a point that restrictions were necessary. Discussion ensued regarding the variations of deer hunting from other wildlife hunting/fishing. Deer hunters frequently have a long term ownership or stewardship role with properties. They can manipulate the property, i.e. food plots, and pass on a specimen one year in anticipation of seeing that same animal in subsequent years to harvest it when it is bigger. This approach was contrasted by fishing as an example. Fishermen have to take what they catch because this will likely be the only chance at that individual. If they throw it back, they may never see it again and/or another fisherman may catch that fish.

Mr. Cherichetti offered that hunters in our program should be moved around so they don't develop an ownership mentality of the parcels; they will be more inclined to take what they see when they see it. He also stated that efforts to bring young people into the sport are necessary for the long term viability of hunting.

V. Meeting Summary

Members were encouraged to keep thinking about a name for the program.

The Q&A will be distributed to Woodcock Nature Center, Ambler Farm, and other venues as members think of them. Mr. Cherichetti will write an introduction to precede the questions and answers.

VI. Adjourn

The members adjourned at 7:55 p.m.