

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

**Deer Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2014**

In attendance: Mike Russnok, Donna Merrill, Loretta Foley, Steve White, and Scott MacQuarrie

I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Discussion took place regarding the intent of the minutes describing the reference to sharpshooting. The consensus was the commission was not speaking of professional sharpshooters, rather there was interest in using a subset of the recreational hunters and pursuing hunting past the recreational season.

Loretta Foley Made a MOTION to approve the minutes as amended, Seconded by Donna Merrill, and carried 5-0-0.

III. Ongoing Business - None

IV. New Business

Russnok introduced the prospect of extending the length of the hunting day, via a state permit, to enable hunting after dark. Several considerations would have to be accounted for. Hunters do not have the equipment needed to hunt at night. There was concern expressed over the cost of acquiring the equipment. Neighbors would also have to be notified. Russnok will investigate the logistics further and report back.

The committee is still interested in pursuing a state permit for an extended season. The date for the bow hunters who wish to participate in the landowner match program is scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup>. Russnok will contact past hunters and any others who expressed an interest in joining the program.

The 2014 properties were discussed. All properties of SNEW are slated to be hunted again. Members inquired after the ability to hunt in Spectacle Swamp. This is CT DEEP property that is wholly or largely leased to Woodcock Nature Center. Patricia Sesto will contact the center to see if Woodcock's prior stance has changed at all.

Members reviewed the properties hunted in the past. Gregg/Belknap Preserves, Tito Lane, Wren Thicket, Culhane on Fox Run, Vista Road, Slaughter Field were all approved for 2014. The committee would like to add Bradley Park and Cherry Lane. It was noted Cherry Lane is a popular park for dog walkers. The letters sent to these neighbors will have to be customized to call attention to the dog issue. There is interest in pursuing Keiser on Seeley Road. The property has not changed ownership and the current owners have a hunter. Wild Duck is of interest this year. This property would be suitable for bow hunting only. Merrill will investigate the potential of the Riding Club. Frank Mabley will contact the Silvermine Golf Club. Sackett/Marble-Richards-Van Halewyn will not be hunted in 2014 due to poor yields in recent years.

Steve White indicated he needs the proposed hours and dates for the Land Trust properties to facilitate a dialogue with the Trust's president, Bruce Beebe. Foley stated there was open space near her house. Sesto will look this up. Other open spaces in the vicinity of Thayer Pond should be investigated, as well.

The value of the landowner match program was discussed. The consensus was the program is worth the effort and will continue for 2014.

- V. Frank Mabley made a Motion to adjourn at 7:50, Seconded by Scott MacQuarrie and carried 5-0-0.