



Deer Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2015

In attendance: Mike Russnok, Scott MacQuarrie, Loretta Foley, Donna Merrill, Kevin Clark

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.
- II. Donna Merrill made a Motion to approve the minutes from March 10, 2015, Seconded by Kevin Clark and carried 4-0-1, with Loretta Foley abstaining.
- III. Foley summarized the homeowner surveys previously distributed to the committee members. The majority conveyed their appreciation of the program and their intent to have hunting in the future. Homeowners will have to contact their hunter prior to next season, or more likely, the hunter will contact them to request access. Hunter responses indicated a few of the properties were not that good and it is unclear if these hunters informed the homeowners. Should the committee decide to pursue the homeowner match program this coming year, Foley will follow up with the owners of these properties.

There were more hunters than properties, leaving some hunters discontent with the program. Merrill suggested marking a town map with known hunting locations and then targeting the parts of town with less hunting to generate properties. Foley reminded the committee such a map was made by her a couple of years ago. It could be updated. Patricia Sesto suggested limiting the number of hunters on the landowner match list to a level that better ensures a match. Russnok followed by saying the list could be limited to the hunters in the controlled hunt. This would allow the committee to continue to be responsive to homeowner inquires without the pressure of fulfilling promises to a too-long list of hunters.

- IV. Russnok reviewed the preliminary town-by-town harvest numbers from the state. Excluding vehicle strikes, Wilton took 152 deer this past season. This

is down from the 177 harvested in the 2013 season. The 2014 rifle season was notably lower than the previous year.

For the 2015 controlled hunt a plan to rotate the hunters between properties was considered. This would alleviate the park-user concerns that the properties are closed too long. This will require a higher degree of strategic planning to make the hunt effective. Neither Cherry Lane nor Bradley Park were productive, and as such are unlikely to make the list for the upcoming season.

Various parcels were discussed in an effort to identify land not previously considered for hunting. These would include Land Trust and state owned land. Sesto will inquire with the DOT about the Super 7 right of way.

- v. The committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m.