

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

**Deer Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2015**

In attendance: Loretta Foley, Donna Merrill, Steve White, Kevin Clark

Also in attendance: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst

- I. Clark Motioned to call the meeting to order at 6:35pm, Seconded by Foley and carried 4-0-0.
- II. Clark made a Motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2015 as drafted, Seconded by Foley, and carried 4-0-0.
- III. Homeowner Match Update - Foley explained there is nothing new to report since the last meeting. Foley, White and Merrill suggested re-starting the promotion of the homeowner match program for next year. Conklin suggested starting the outreach for recruiting homeowners in the spring since many people are on vacation in the summer months. Merrill suggested the committee man a table at Go Green to recruit more homeowners for the program.

Controlled Hunt Update – White noted that Russnok had emailed some data from the CT DEEP website. As of December 7, 2015, 98 deer have been harvested in Wilton (72 with archery, 26 with firearms). Clark reported he heard a shot from Sackett Preserve and Conklin confirmed that 5 deer have been harvested from Sackett this season. White discussed comparing this year's harvest data with previous seasons' data. Foley commented data may be obtained from a review of previous year's Deer Committee minutes. Conklin commented an email address could be set up next year so each hunter in the Controlled Hunt could email deer harvest information to the office on a rolling basis. Clark commended the deer harvest data from CT DEEP includes hunters outside of the controlled hunt program and more specific data on the controlled hunt harvest would be helpful for future program management.

Foley asked if a hunter could be re-assigned to a new spot if they report there have been no deer observed on their assigned property. Conklin confirmed the hunter should email Russnok and he would be able to assess available spots to move the hunter. Foley also asked about the number of bucks versus the number of does that have been harvested. Conklin confirmed the number between the two sexes is about equal at this point from the data recorded in the office.

Clark confirmed he visited the Town Clerk's office and signed the form stating he received the Code of Ethics booklet.

White commented more public outreach should be conducted this year in order to educate residents about the ongoing need for deer management in Wilton. White suggested more articles be published in the local newspapers. Merrill noted historical articles could be updated and published monthly to support the outreach effort. Foley noted the Wilton Newcomers Club may be a good organization to partner with in order to educate new residents about the problems with deer over-population. Foley also suggested a year end results report be published in the local newspapers.

IV. The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.