

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

**Deer Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2015**

In attendance: Chairman Mike Russnok, Donna Merrill, Steve White, Scott MacQuarrie

Also in attendance: Interim Director of Environmental Affairs Mike Conklin, Glenn Pennell, Dominick Cavoto

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.
- II. Scott MacQuarrie made a Motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2015 as drafted, Seconded by Donna Merrill, and carried 4-0-0.
- III. Russnok explained that Frank Mabley resigned from the Deer Committee. Russnok noted that he may have a friend who would be willing to serve on the Committee and he will contact him directly to inquire. White commented that other residents have shown interest in the past including Rudy Escalante and Armenio Queiros. MacQuarrie questioned whether the potential member's party affiliation would play a role in them joining the Committee.

Russnok noted 2014 hunter Jack Parascondoha donated two (2) game cameras to the Town and the gift was officially accepted by the Board of Selectman. Russnok proposed giving the cameras to the two hunters that harvested the most deer in 2014. Conklin suggested loaning the cameras to the hunters instead of giving them away because they are now official Town property. The committee was in general agreement that loaning the cameras to the two hunters was a good idea.

The committee reviewed the 2015 Hunt Plan and will try to have the list of hunters and assignments completed in July. A kickoff meeting will be planned for August and the hunters will be given hunting permission slips at that time.

The 2015 Hunt Plan spreadsheet was reviewed property by property; "hard closed" language and holiday dates were discussed. Conklin explained the Conservation Commission would like to see the deer harvest data from last year. White questioned how Wilton's check station records the properties from which deer are harvested. Conklin explained that hunters verbally report where each deer is taken. Russnok and White commented the CT DEEP stated the deer harvest numbers may be extremely under reported by hunters on private land. The Deer Committee will work to tighten the lines of communication between the

Conservation Commission and the Deer Committee.

- IV. The new Sunday hunting legislation was discussed and Sunday hunting will be incorporated into the program.

Conklin commented the Conservation Commission was ok with the Sunday hunting as long as it was in line with the state laws. The Commission also supports the decision to “hard close” certain properties to improve the harvest numbers.

Mr. Pennell & Mr. Cavoto asked if the Town would be purchasing and distributing corn to hunters again this year. Russnok responded that he is not sure what the status of the corn distribution will be this year. Mr. Pennell volunteered to distribute corn to hunters if the program continues.

- V. The committee adjourned at 7:22 p.m.