DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Telephone (203) 563-0180 Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL 238 Danbury Road Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Deer Committee Meeting Minutes March 10, 2015

In attendance: Mike Russnok, Scott MacQuarrie, Donna Merrill and Kevin Clark.

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.
- II. Kevin Clark made a Motion to approve the minutes from January 13, 2015, Seconded by Donna Merrill and passed 4-0-0.
- III. The Committee then discussed the hunter surveys that had been aggregated for both the Controlled Hunt and Homeowner Match.

Controlled hunt surveys showed 62 deer in total (39 does and 27 bucks) with 42 out of 44 hunters responding to the surveys (54 deer were reported in prior year). Highlights included Comstock (11 deer) and Popes Pond (10 deer). In addition City Lake had 9 deer. City Lake had a higher ratio of bucks harvested than the other properties and the Committee discussed if there was anything contributing to that trend. Russnok noted that he did not believe that there was a conscious trophy hunt as many of the hunters noted on their surveys that they were only seeing bucks on the property. Disappointments included Cherry Lane and Bradley which were new parks this year - the hope was that these properties would produce a bountiful harvest as they had not been hunted before, but the hunters reported very little deer activity. The Committee discussed that these properties it would be unlikely that these properties would be hunted again in the 2015 hunt as the inconvenience to residents outweighed the harvest. The remaining responses of the survey were then discussed.

Homeowner Match surveys showed a total of 8 deer harvested (1 buck and 7 does). This represents the deer harvested from the properties assigned this year and does not include any deer harvested from properties assigned in past years. There were 17 properties assigned and responses from 14 hunters. The harvest is down from 28 deer in the last year which was driven by a decrease in the number of properties that were assigned (there were 50 properties assigned last year). Russnok noted that there were a number of hunters that did not receive a property and several hunters that were assigned properties indicated that they may not participate in the future. There were 4 properties that the hunters reported that they would not be interested in hunting next year. A discussion ensured about the future of the Homeowner Match program and the need to have different marketing outreach in order to increase the number of assignments.

The discussion on the homeowner surveys was deferred until the next meeting.

IV. The committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.