

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

**Deer Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2015**

In attendance: Chairman Mike Russnok, Kevin Clark, Donna Merrill, Frank Mabley, Loretta Foley, Steve White, Scott MacQuarrie

Also in attendance: Director of Environmental Affairs Patricia Sesto, Judy Mabley

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. Loretta Foley made a Motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2015 as drafted, Seconded by Kevin Clark, and carried 7-0-0.
- III. Russnok distributed the properties and schedule for hunting for the 2015 season. The plan is derived from previous discussions of this committee and feedback from the hunters. Most notably, two parcels added in the 2014 season, Cherry Lane Park and Bradley Park, will not be hunted in 2015. Issues of continued public use and lack of deer lead to this conclusion. The Charter Oak set aside was likewise dropped due to thick vegetation and hunting by others on adjacent parcels. The abbreviated schedule for Gregg and Belknap Preserves will carry through to this season in response to neighbor concerns.

The only new parcel for 2015 is a Wilton Land Trust piece in south Wilton. Members questioned the feasibility of hunting Department of Transportation land, especially the "old girl scout camp" north of Mountain Road. Sesto agreed to make the inquiry and added she has had people state poaching already takes place there.

Members thanked Russnok for his work on compiling the information. Questions regarding recent harvest totals were discussed. Steve White requested the harvests for at least the last two seasons be included on the matrix for reference.

Sesto reviewed the process that follows this committee's adoption of their hunt plan. As the committee operates under the Conservation Commission, they must approve the plan first. Merrill will present the plan at their June meeting. Once Conservation approves the plan, the Board of Selectmen then must likewise approve it. In prior years, Sesto would make the presentation to the Selectmen.

Sesto also advised there is a permit with the State Department of Health issued to South Norwalk Electric and Water (SNEW). The permit is good for several years. The only obligation is to file an end of season report in March. This year Casey Cordes of SNEW filed this with data provided by Russnok.

Each year a license agreement or contract is revised and executed by the first selectman and head of SNEW. The contract lists the SNEW parcels to be hunted and most importantly, authorizes a representative of Wilton to sign the landowner consent forms. Sesto has had this authorization over the years. Sesto will send last year's contract to Russnok. There is a new Director of SNEW and Sesto cautioned this might cause some disruptions the first time through.

- IV. The committee acknowledged this is Sesto's last meeting before leaving her position with the town. They thanked her for her work and complimented her on her contributions to the deer management program. Sesto responded by congratulating this group of committee members. The committee was on the verge of folding and their diligence and hard work has made the program quite productive. She expressed her joy in having had the opportunity to work with them.
- V. The committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.