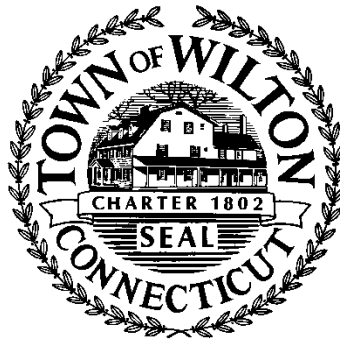


DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Telephone (203) 563-0180
Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**Deer Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2012**

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

Also in attendance: None

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.
- II. Passed on approval of previous meeting minutes as they were not currently available
- III. The Committee then discussed the status of the hunt. Russnok noted that the DEC website was reporting that 42 deer had been taken in Wilton with 25 does and 17 bucks. Russnok noted that 2 members of the Department of Public Works had been given permission to hunt the land around the dump. They will not be hunting while they are working and this land will not be opened to other hunters.

White noted that 25 properties had been assigned and only 4 have been deemed, by the hunter, to be unsuitable for hunting. White noted that many of the landowners are new to the program (i.e. the Committee did not assign them a hunter in prior years). White was discouraged that more landowners haven't come forward after all of our efforts. The Committee will continue to put up flyers around Town in an effort to get more properties for hunting.

White and Mabley discussed the possibility of reaching back out to landowners that have been previously matched to see if they can spread the word. This could include a copy of the flyer that has been created. Russnok noted that he would follow up with Pat Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs, to see if this was feasible and if there were any restrictions to do so. Merrill noted that she would distribute the most recent copy of the flyer to the members of the Committee.

Merrill noted that Kim Young will include the Flyer in a mailing to the Garden Club and Mabley noted that he will distribute to the members of Kiwanis.

The Committee then discussed the potential use of Sharpshooting and noted the article that was distributed by Ms. Sesto on the town in Pennsylvania that utilized the local police force. The members of the Committee noted that this should be considered as an alternative as this was viewed to be cost effective. In addition, we should consider other state permit options that would extend the season for select areas of Town. The Committee also discussed utilizing a third party vendor and noted that more information was needed to evaluate which alternative suited the Town and the objectives to reduce the deer population while balance the costs associated with this alternative.

Russnok then discussed the media outreach in Town and noted that we had previously discussed the use of the Conservation Commission's newsletter. Previously it had been discussed to include a discussion of sharpshooting but the Committee felt it was premature to proceed with that as we were still evaluating and learning about the various alternatives available. Instead, the members thought it would be better to include the information on the flyer to appeal for more landowners.

- IV. With no further business, the committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m.