

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

**Deer Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2014**

In attendance: Mike Russnok, Chairman; Frank Mabley, Scott McQuarry, Donna Merrill, Kevin Clark and Loretta Foley

I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Donna Merrill Clark moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014 as drafted, Seconded by Kevin Clark, and carried 6-0-0.

III. Ongoing Business - None

IV. New Business

a. Homeowner Questionnaire Results

The results of the homeowner questionnaire were reviewed. The leading problem identified is again communication between the assigned hunter and the homeowner. Some homeowners felt the amount of time hunters were on-site was too little.

Based on the surveys, 28 deer were harvested as a result of this year's matches.

Donna Merrill raised the question was the effort worth the outcome. Discussion ensued.

It was suggested that sharpshooting, using skilled recreation hunters or extended seasons may be worthwhile. The prospect of using professional sharpshooters was dismissed as being too big of a community challenge right now.

The progress being made is insufficient and sharpshooters would have access to the same properties currently hunted.

Russnok expressed his view that the homeowner match program should be dropped. Too much work for the outcome. Loretta Foley disagreed, stating the workload was manageable and there is value to the effort.

Marketing will still be needed and the program is good for inciting public involvement.

It was the consensus of the members to support Foley and Steve White in continuing with the matching program.

Perhaps a short course on baiting could be organized. The landowner match hunters were not part of Howard Kilpatrick's presentation. Even those who attended didn't consistently grasp the details of the technique.

- V. The next meeting will focus on choosing controlled hunt properties and discussing "rolling" closures.

Frank Mabley made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., Seconded by Kevin Clark, and carried 5-0-0