

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

**Deer Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2014**

In attendance: Mike Russnok, Chairman; Scott MacQuarrie, vice chairman; Frank Mabley, Donna Merrill, and Steve White

I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Elections

Donna Merrill made a Motion to elect Mike Russnok as chairman, Seconded by Scott MacQuarrie, and passed 5-0-0.

Steve White made a Motion to elect Scott MacQuarrie as vice chairman, Seconded by Frank Mabley and carried 5-0-0.

III. Approval of Minutes

Frank Mabley moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2013 as drafted, Seconded by Donna Merrill, and carried 5-0-0.

IV. Ongoing Business

Hunt Update: Members and staff reviewed the harvest totals provided on the CT DEEP website and those of the town hall check station. As of December 31st, 2013 29 deer have been taken by firearms and 121 by bow. Wilton ranks third in Fairfield Co. towns, with Ridgefield and Newtown harvesting more.

Discussion ensued regarding the change in production of the bow vs. firearm seasons. In past years, firearms accounted for 80%± of the total harvest. In recent years, bow has become dominant. The most likely reasons are bow hunters are getting out earlier in the season and the long time hunting pressure in the larger parcels has successfully depleted the herd in those properties.

Nine hunters have been issued landowner consent forms for the month of January.

V. New Business

a. Interview Questionnaires

The hunter questionnaires for the controlled hunt and landowner match program were reviewed. There were no substantive changes to the drafts. Russnok will email the questionnaire to the controlled hunt hunters and Steve White will distribute the landowner match hunter questionnaires. The homeowner questionnaire will be ready for review at the February meeting.

It was noted that some 50 homeowners signed up this year. Loretta Foley's calls to last year's homeowners yielded results, as did the articles in the paper.

- VI. White made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m., Seconded by Mabley, and carried 5-0-0