



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

Deer Management Advisory Committee

Minutes

For the regular meeting of
Wednesday, January 25, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Denise Moser.

Statement of Compliance & Roll Call

Members present: Bill Cane, Denise Moser, Dorothy Aicher, Chris Pazdan, John Piepszak, Mike Van Clef, Dave Van Selous, ,

Absent: (all DMAC members were present)

Members of the public present: none

Announcements / Correspondence

A committee member mentioned that Hopewell Township has some real property parcels for which there's a plan that they be farmed, after completion of the township bidding process.

Minutes for Approval - (none)

Administration Comments/Administrative Matters

The Township Administrative Officer was absent from the meeting.

Bill Cane and Denise Moser were elected Co-Chairs. Dorothy Aicher was approved to take a role as an interim secretary.

2016 Accomplishments ; & 2017 Goals

The harvest numbers had decreased during the 2015 – 2016 hunting season, compared to 1 or more prior hunting seasons. Therefore, the Committee discussions on recent accomplishments and future goals involved Committee members' views on the harvesting challenges posed by various factors, including environmental factors, such as acorn abundance and the availability of protective spots where deer are beyond the range of hunters. Member Van Clef mentioned his familiarity with hunters at a county property who have high harvest success through their commitment to deer management goals. The members discussed, for comparison, the harvest shortcomings that stem from hunters who emphasize "trophy" shooting.

After these discussions, the Committee was leaning toward the concept that a reasonably successful harvest program could conceivably be based on a comparatively smaller number of hunters, as compared to the Committee expanding its efforts to attract more hunters.

The culmination of the discussions resulted in the Committee having the following goals and **tentative** initiatives (some of which were in the nature of streamlining efforts): have the Township administrative officer forward the harvest reports to member Van Clef, on an approximately monthly basis; aim to present the annual hunting resolution, to the Township Committee, earlier than in prior years; investigate options, and related considerations, to have the criminal "background check" performed on hunters that are new to the Hopewell harvest program, rather than performed on every hunter, every year.

New Business:

These discussions focused on the Mount Rose-area hunting parcel, which has changed due to its being part of the new Mount Rose Preserve. More specifically, there was a discussion on the timing of mowing that was planned for the preserve, which appeared to be connected with the making of walking trails on the Preserve. The Committee expressed the preference that mowing be timed to occur after the end of the hunting season.

Public Comment

No one from the public was present.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned, by motion & approval, at approximately 8:26 pm.