

TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 11-1514

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING THE REVISED
GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
HOPEWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A DEER MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2009, the Hopewell Valley Deer Management Task Force was created to develop a plan to mitigate negative impacts caused by deer on the quality of life of residents of Hopewell Valley and on the ecological integrity of its forests; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force was charged with (1) initiating a public education program, (2) creating a comprehensive deer management plan and (3) determining the requirements for long-term sustainability of a successful deer management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force conducted eight (8) public meetings, distributed and analyzed a public questionnaire, performed a nighttime spotlight survey of the deer population and published articles about deer management issues in local newspapers; and

WHEREAS, in September, 2010 the Task Force presented its 56-page "Hopewell Valley Deer Management Plan" to the Hopewell Township Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force found that the dramatic rise in the deer population has resulted in several negative impacts, including Lyme disease, deer-vehicle collisions, agricultural losses and landscape planting damage, all of which adversely affect the quality of life of residents of Hopewell Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force also found that forests are adversely impacted by over abundant deer that graze on native plants and that the long term maintenance of forest cover is in jeopardy because new trees are eaten before they can replace those that fall; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recommended a set of five (5) comprehensive goals to address these concerns, and offered eleven (11) specific strategies to meet the stated goals; and

WHEREAS, among other things the Task Force requested that the Hopewell Township Committee appoint a standing committee to implement the Task Force plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes it to be in the best interest of the Township to create an Advisory Committee that will meet at least monthly and provide the Township Committee with reports, information and advice about steps to take to better manage the deer population in Hopewell Township and to mitigate the adverse effects of the deer population on the health, economics and ecology of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1.

Chapter 2-5.1 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Hopewell is supplemented as follows (addition is underlined):

2-5.1 Bodies Established. There shall be the following municipal and intermunicipal bodies:

* * *

n. Deer Management Advisory Committee.

Section 2.

Chapter 2 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Hopewell is supplemented by adding a new Subsection 2-37, as follows (new section is underlined):

2-37. Deer Management Advisory Committee

2-37.1 Creation; Number of Members; Quorum. There is hereby established a Deer Management Advisory Committee, which shall consist of seven (7) regular members and two (2) alternates. Four (4) members shall comprise a quorum to do business.

2-37.2 Powers and Duties; Purpose. The Advisory Committee will render advice to the Township Committee on matters related to deer management. It will issue an annual report and undertake such other duties as may be requested from time-to-time by the Township Committee. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to help mitigate the adverse impact of the white tailed deer on the health, economics and ecology of Hopewell Township.

2-37.3 Membership; Appointment. The membership shall include at least one (1) farmer, one (1) hunter and one (1) master gardener. All members shall be appointed by the mayor.

2-37.4 Terms of Office. Initially, two (2) members shall be appointed to serve three (3) year terms, three (3) members shall be appointed to serve two (2) year terms and two (2) members shall be appointed to serve one (1) year terms. Thereafter, all regular members shall serve three (3) year terms. Alternate members shall serve one (1) year terms.

2-37.5 Election of Chair. The Advisory Committee shall select a chair from among its members and may select such other officers from among its members as it deems appropriate.

2-37.6 Adoption of Bylaws. The Advisory Committee may adopt its own bylaws, which shall not be inconsistent with this Ordinance or the laws of the state of New Jersey and which shall be submitted to the Township Committee pursuant to Section 2-5.8.

2-37.7 Meetings. The Advisory Committee shall meet at least monthly. Meetings shall be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

2-37.8 Sunset Provision. Authorization for the Advisory Committee shall terminate five (5) years from the effective date of this ordinance unless the Township Committee, by ordinance, extends that authorization.

Section 3.

Severability. The various parts, sections, and clauses of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section, or clause is adjudged

unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

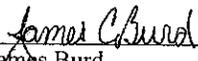
Section 4.

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5.

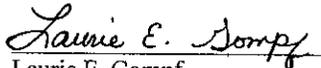
Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication pursuant to law.

Date Introduced: April 25, 2011
Date Advertised: April 28, 2011
Date Adopted: May 9, 2011



James Burd
Mayor

Attest:



Laurie E. Gompf
Municipal Clerk