

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 1, 2007**

The East Goshen Township Deer Management Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair, Jim McRee, Vice-Chair Albert Zuccarello and members Steven DiAntonio, Walter Wujcik, Bob Huebner and Linda Polishuk. Also in attendance were Don McConathy (Board of Supervisors), and Jack Yahraes (Municipal Authority).

**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman Jim McRee called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Walter moved that the minutes of September 17, 2007 be approved as corrected. Al seconded the motion. There was no further public comment or discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Jim presented a "Got Deer?" sign advertised by Nature Technologies, an organization that provides deterrent deer management services without the use of fences. Jim is not very familiar with the organization but believes they use a combination of sprays and sound devices. Personally, Don used 3 units/services by Nature Technologies last year and found them totally ineffective. However he said Willistown has used them successfully. The company is headquartered in Pleasantville, NY and came down to PA about a year and a half ago. Jim said it might be another possibility to consider.

**B. QDMA VIDEO PRESENTATION – PART III**

Those in attendance watched the high school version of QDMA's deer education program. Part III of the video covered Wildlife Management: Habitat and Communities. Experts covered trap & release programs, bow-hunting, sharp-shooting, fertility control and community deer management programs including cost, time and meat distribution estimates.

Joseph Silvestri a QDMA member said QDMA has been working on a community education version for the past nine years so he can't say when that would be available. Linda said even this high school version would be very beneficial to the general public. Jim suggested showing it during a public movie night at the township building. Al said the video showed various municipal situations and, although they did not cover Lyme disease, it validated all of their findings to date. Steve agreed that the information they have to date is sufficient and recommended that the BOS watch the video. Members agreed that neither the Park & Recreation nor Conservancy Board needed to watch it. Bob pointed out that a lot of the hunting in the video did occur safely on public land.

Al shared an article that appeared in the Sunday edition of the Chester County Times that said the Park Authority oversaw the bow-hunting program in Kennett Township. Once they make their recommendations, Al strongly recommended dissolving the DMC and having another township entity oversee the program. Currently there is only one township employee that oversees Park & Recreation. Jim said they would need to include operational scenarios along with their recommendations.

Public Comment:

*Joseph Silvestri, QDMA member*- said he knows of surrounding communities including Ridley Creek State Park and East Bradford Township that enlist the help of extra rangers while their hunting program is running. Warning signs including dates of hunts are posted. He said extra manpower is definitely needed from the community.

**C. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Private Landowner Hunting (Steve/Linda)

Steve spoke to a couple of groups but not much information is available right now. Jim said letters to deer management groups went out in August while letters to large landowners went out in mid-September; a reference to the program also appeared in the fall newsletter. Linda asked about the screening of hunters and Jim said they would need to make recommendations about that for a township-sponsored program not for private properties. However they would like to be able to reference any successful programs that private landowners might have. Collecting statistics from private developments including Hershey's Mill and Ashbridge would also be useful.

Steve said the archery season has already begun so many hunting groups are already managing other properties. If contacted by a private landowner, it will take time to set up a program, however all the groups he spoke to are open about sharing any statistical information they gather. The archery season runs from September to early November. The season is closed for two weeks and then shotgun season runs from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

B. Lyme Disease (Al/Jim)

Al said they really haven't explored the cotton ball tubes for mice and they should decide how to handle it – should the township provide information only, supply products or do both. Al said individuals could use the R.I.D. lice product available from drug stores to make their own tubes. Members agreed that this information should be shared with residents. Jim said the Daminex is the commercial version of the tubes and costs about \$24/6 pk., but if the township purchased in bulk, it could cost less. This hardened core is easy to use and could be preferred by residents.

Al said the 4-Post Feeders, which treat 40-50 acres, should be placed deep in woods, away from children. Government regulations require signs to be posted. They should definitely purchase spring-loaded posts and periodic replacement of the tickicide will be needed. The posts will be used for the treatment of ticks in the spring-summer-fall. The posts could be used as bait stations for a deer management program in the fall-winter. They have been found to be 90% effective over 3 years in reducing ticks. Members agree that they should go after ticks via the mice angle simultaneously. Jim would like to put together an operational plan for the township to be reviewed at the next meeting. Al questioned the township's responsibility for these products but Jim said it is really a "health & safety" issue for the BOS; it will benefit the residents.

C. Ordinance Changes (Linda)

Linda identified sections of the ordinances that could be modified and gave Jim the list. She also suggested including a list of deer-resistant plants for residents or builders and possibly planting in open spaces to attract deer to those areas and away from residential homes. Steve said that gets into food plotting and does not think residents would support it. Members agree that a short list of deer-resistant plants could be included in the newsletter as well as linked to the website. Linda also had a "Do Not Feed the Deer" brochure that members agreed could be condensed and included in the newsletter as well.

Public Comment:

*Bernadette Delorenzo, 1718 Clocktower Drive* – said she thought she had previously given Jim a copy of her list of deer-resistant plants, however he did not have it. Jim and Linda copied down the website, [www.fund.org](http://www.fund.org) and will look into it.

Jim said after they draft the ordinance changes, he believes they need to be submitted to the township solicitor for review. Steve said state laws supercede township ordinances regarding the feeding of wildlife. Jim said they could word it as: *no feeding except in the context of a deer management program*. Jim will look for feedback from the BOS.

D. Communication & Education (Matt/Al)

Al said they still need to develop this but will definitely use the newsletter. Previously they had suggested having a large public meeting, at the high school for example, but with only a private landowner program at this point, Jim said it does not seem necessary. Jim said the BOS meetings are always open to the public. Steve said the “portable” deer warning signs, placed in heavy deer-populated areas, are especially effective at slowing people down this time of year.

E. Information Gathering (Walt/Matt)

Jim said Mark Gordon has a stack of pick-up reports from 2003 that could be inputted into his geographical mapping program. Hopefully this would highlight denser areas and/or time of day when deer are active. Walter will look into it; Bob will help. Jim said the BOS does not support a survey.

F. Neighboring Township Actions (Linda)

Linda spoke to Sandy Turly, the West Goshen Asst. Twp. Mgr., who said they have no deer management program in place. They are waiting for the Jerochian Estates to be built and plan to have a hunt afterwards. They did not mention any interest in getting involved in East Goshen’s efforts. Willistown Township does not have a program but the Willistown Trust does. Linda will check back with these townships about their large landowners. She will also contact Westtown and East Whiteland townships.

Members agreed that they would like to wrap up their action items by the end of the year, however Steve said the statistical information from landowners probably won’t be available by then. The DMC is scheduled to meet 10/15, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3 and 12/17. Jim suggested trying to get operational outlines into the packets or sent via e-mail prior to their meetings so there is time for review.

**D. MOTION:**

Al moved the Deer Management Committee recommend that the Board of Supervisors collectively watch Parts II and III of the QDMA video: “Living with White-Tailed Deer” an Educator’s Guide, because it underscores and validates all the information they have gathered since January. Steve seconded the motion. Jim agreed that it encapsulates their research, summarizes and entertains, and will give the BOS a feel for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion was unanimously approved. Jim will attend the BOS meeting on 10/2/07.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Joseph Silvestri, QDMA member* – thanked the DMC for their open-minded discussion and for viewing the QDMA video. He also personally recommended “Plot Saver” for use around your garden. He used it and was very skeptical but found it quite effective. He purchased it from Mastardi’s.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time members will re-evaluate their meeting schedule. Walter made a motion to adjourn. Al seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary*