

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2007**

The East Goshen Township Deer Management Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 7pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair, Jim McRee, Vice-Chair Albert Zuccarello and members Walter Wujcik and Linda Polishuk, along with Mark Gordon (Township Zoning Officer).

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of November 5, 2007 were reviewed and corrected. Walter moved that the amended minutes of November 5, 2007 be approved. Linda seconded the motion. There was no further public comment or discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The minutes of November 19, 2007 were reviewed and corrected. Al moved that the amended minutes of November 19, 2007 be approved. Walter seconded the motion. There was no further public comment or discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jim announced that Steve DiAntonio would step down from the DMC effective January 2008 as he is joining the QDMA board. Jim spoke with Bill Hulton who is mailing a CD of the Kennett Twp. hunting program; Bill reiterated the level of personal involvement on the part of their committee members. Mark said Kennett Township's program, that harvests about 300 deer/annually, was driven by the severe agricultural damage suffered by their farmers. Deer can eat an average of 1 ton/vegetation per year. Members agreed that the browse line has been heavily damaged in East Goshen. After ground cover and low canopies are damaged, other animals and natural plant cycles are also being disrupted. Rick Smith said he would be in favor of setting up a fenced "foliage test area." Jim said they need to get final confirmation from the BOS in January before moving forward with the bait stations or tick tubes.

Al said that Eco System Inc., who owns Damenex, would offer a discount for high volume purchases of the tick tubes. Normally 96 tubes/case sells for \$250 plus S/H. If East Goshen purchases 4 or more cases, they will cut the price to \$160. Six tubes cover 1/8 acre area. Tubes could be sold for a slight profit, at cost or given away for free. Tubes are believed to be good for one season only.

B. 2008 DMC GUIDE

Committee Members – As they move forward, members agree that the 2008 committee should consist of at least three people and no more than nine. Although most should be hunters, some residents should also serve. Al said they need direction from the BOS before making any final decisions but reiterated that he believes the DMC should disband. Mark's supervision of the pilot program was highly controversial; members agree a committee should be maintained to keep track of new technologies, track data and filter information to the BOS. However, they agree that the DMC is ineffective without action from the BOS. The DMC makes recommendations but ultimately the BOS makes the decisions.

Mark suggested developing a program similar to Kennett Square's deer management program. Al said they should focus on the private landowners and exclude township space. Currently about 50-80 deer are killed each year in car collision accidents in East Goshen – more deer than are currently killed by hunting. Mark said it could be beneficial for the township to spearhead a hunting program. Linda said 2008 members would need adequate time to commit to the development of a program, as they could need to meet with landowners 1-2 times per week and then attend quarterly DMC meetings with updates. Members would also need to submit quarterly newsletter articles and manage any advertising to residents. Hunters would be able to answer the technical questions homeowners will have about any deer management program and would be more effective than the average resident. Members agree to strive for 3 hunters as members on the 2008 committee and phase out the dual-committee members. Al suggested changing the committee name to “Wildlife Management Committee” and incorporating the geese as well.

Members agree that they cannot interview deer management groups until the BOS makes a decision about the hunting program. Deer Management groups need to be determined in the first few months of 2008 so they can be notified by June, and allowed ample time to survey the land before hunting. There is a lot of potential for success but Jim said the BOS is still looking for concrete numbers. Al said it would take 10 years to track the success/failure any program. Mark said it would have to be a cooperative effort by the surrounding areas to truly be effective.

C. TOWNSHIP HUNTING PROGRAM DRAFT

Members reviewed their draft recommendation for a township hunting program.

- Schedule – dawn to dusk, Monday thru Saturday.
- Locations – Bow Tree, Mill Creek, Grand Oak and Supplee/Rockland Village.
- Procedures – no field dressing will be allowed.
- Notification – they will offer information nights to answer resident questions, provide maps of the proposed hunting areas and identify any concerns. Mark said the BOS would be very resident-focused on this issue. Jim said there are a lot of opinions that cloud the issues; it's okay to admit they don't have all the answers but will continue to educate and raise awareness. Walter suggested meeting with individual area residents to address specific concerns about their neighborhood, potentially identifying those in favor or against hunting. Meetings could take approximately 2 months. Linda said the BOS needs to act regardless of public opinion. Walter suggested phasing in the hunting program one area at a time.
- Parking – specific locations will be identified at a later time.
- Harvest – Jim calculated an *estimated* number of deer that could be harvested, based on 25% success rate, hunting AM/PM sessions (144 opportunities) that would result in 36 deer being harvested. Mark said the number was very attainable and thinks some deer management groups could even surpass it. Walter said it is better to under-estimate and over-deliver. Members agree there are unknown variables that will effect the calculation, but this number in addition to private landowners' hunting programs and road kills, could result in a deer herd reduction by 1/3.
- Will this be enough? – Jim said they can monitor the progress and adjust the program if the harvest numbers are too high or resident complaints are justified; another aerial deer count will be necessary. Walt said the same type of technology should be used to allow for effective comparisons to be made.

Linda said they need to review the Kennett Township deer management program information and consider incorporating any relevant ideas into their recommendations. Jim said they need to determine the depth of such a program and considers that an evolution of the committee. Mark said a township program could be the catalyst to the program, encouraging private landowners to get involved.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Long, 959 Kennett Way, Hershey's Mill – said that including township parks would give them an even greater hunting area but Jim said parks are not an option. Active public parks are not a good space for hunting but township open spaces are often wooded or wetlands and ideal locations for deer. Although they are open to the public, they are not considering any space that has “improved or maintained” facilities on site.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The DMC will meet on December 17th if the Kennett Township information is received in time. Walter made a motion to adjourn. Linda seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary