

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2008**

The East Goshen Township Deer Management Commission held a workshop meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7pm at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chair, Jim McRee and members Walter Wujcik, Bob Huebner, Steve DiAntonio, Matt Keating, Al Zuccarello and Linda Polishuk, along with Mike Merwin (Township Building Inspector), Jack Yahraes (Municipal Authority) and Marty Shane (Board of Supervisors).

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. No one is recording the meeting.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of March 10, 2008 were reviewed and corrected. Bob moved that the minutes of March 10, 2008 be approved as written. Linda seconded the motion. There was no further public comment or discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. Jim said this would be Tracie Hill's last meeting as secretary; Jeane Harvey is replacing her.
- B. The BOS approved the hunting program.
- C. Don McConathy & Jim met with the Willistown Conservation Trust and exchanged a productive dialogue. The possible effect on the hawk population from tick treatment on mice was raised. There may be a potential co-op partnership between Willistown, Ashbridge and Applebrook.
- D. Tom Clapper & Jim met with the Chester County Health Dept. about funding. EGT is the only township they are aware that are doing this kind of program and they were receptive. There were 96 reported cases of lyme disease at the end of October 2007 and the health department said physicians have stopped reporting cases. Chester County has the 3rd highest incident rate in PA. Jim added that there are good stats on the County website/lecture programs. They may be able to refer them to County commissioners, state representatives or other townships for support. Jim will email a copy of the presentation.
- E. Budget Report - Jim reported that they have spent \$8,060.58 on the 4-Post Feeders. Sustainable expenses will include permetherin and deer feed. The feeders are set to the smallest setting (3/8") and are gravity fed.
- F. Tick tubes are now for sale through the township for \$24/6pk or \$60/24pk. Information was included in the February newsletter. Tick tubes are most effective from spring through August. Bob will put information on the park bulletin boards. Jack suggested including info in the township lobby during tax time and the election.
- G. Voice of Residence Program – 7 e-mails were received via deer@eastgoshen.org. There were 6 supporters and 1 resident against the program. The White Chimney's, Hershey's Mill and Applebrook developments were interested in the 4-Post feeders. Approximately 5 residents were opposed to the program at the BOS meeting, so support is basically split. The Southeastern Deer Management Professionals would like to be involved in the township clean-up day on 4/12.

B. NEW

A. Action Items to Initiate Hunting Program

- a. Surveys – Jim said open spaces need to be surveyed and marked so hunters know the boundaries between open spaces and private properties. It could be cost effective to have township staff walk the properties with metal detectors to locate pins. Matt suggested using overhead photography; a GPS is only possible if the borders are known. Mark suggested contacting Yerkes for “as-builds” of the open space. Using college interns was also suggested but Jim is concerned about accuracy. Jim will check with Rick about their options and do a cost analysis for review at the next meeting. Members discussed the pros and cons of delineated lines between open spaces and private property.
 - b. Signs –
 - i. Open Space Signs - Bob suggested “Hunting in Progress, 9/20/08 – 1/24/09, Use Caution” sign. Steve said “Regulated Hunting” signs are posted in East Bradford. Jim suggested laminated plastic, as it is very durable. Steve said orange & black or white & burgundy signs are common. Steve will contact the hunting groups and develop a sign for their program. Legally, signs need to be posted but there is no minimum number required. Possible locations include trees inside the open space or entrances to trails.
 - ii. Matt said they should communicate to residents that, although still open to the public, the use of the land has changed. Marty is concerned about dog running negatively affecting their hunting efforts. Members agreed that a newsletter article outlining the “do’s & don’ts” during hunting season could be beneficial.
 - iii. Vehicle signs - Members agree on 8.5 x 11” car tag, with a uniform design for all groups, that won’t draw too much attention. Matt will create a template.
 - c. Advertisements – Members agree that the 4 groups that are currently interested are sufficient and will be divided among the 5 spaces. After the pilot program is initiated, they will re-evaluate, and add or change groups as needed. Large or small, the DMC agreed that all groups seem very committed. No additional advertisements will be placed.
 - d. Website – Jim will try to persuade the webmaster of Willistown Conservation Trust to help develop and maintain the hunting program portion of the EGT website.
 - e. Applications – applications are due May 14th. The DMC will meet on 4/21, 5/5 and 5/19; the decision deadline is 6/2. The DMC will review applications and assign land management at the 5/19 meeting. Vacancies will be filled as needed after the deadline. Insurance certificates are a required part of the application. Jim will check with the township solicitor to see if any signed acceptance agreement between EGT and the chosen deer management groups (acceptance of the assignment, subject to the terms of the program outline) is needed. Steve said groups would need to start evaluating/walking the open spaces by the end of July/August.
- B. Lyme Disease Info Distribution on July 4th – Jim suggesting setting up a DMC booth/table at the 4th of July celebration to distribute information on lyme disease and/or sell tick tubes. Marty said it is helpful to have information at any public event but littering is a concern. There are two lyme disease signs in EGT park that were donated by Willistown Conservation Trust. Mark suggested contacting the Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern PA for additional information/help. Members agree to develop the concept and discuss staffing at the next meeting.

C. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Traffic Accidents – Bob presented a township map, with red dots, indicating reported road kill locations from July 2007 through February 2008 (70 total). They hope to see fewer accidents this time next year and this can be used to help evaluate the impact of the program. Paoli Pike,

Strasburg and Reservoir Roads had the most hits. These roads could be possible candidates for portable warning signs next fall. November & December are the worse months for accidents. Members compared numbers from 2003-2008 and Marty suggesting posting a copy of the map in the township lobby.

- B. Funding – Jim said they can look into grants, help from the County Health Department and private funding through an insurance company like State Farm, Erie, Geico, etc. One advantage to private sponsorship is that if EGT is successful other townships will want to adopt similar programs and that's beneficial to these insurance companies in the long run. Al will contact State Farm. Funding could be used for Streider lights, fencing, future surveys, etc. Bob said hunting is said to actually increase accidents because of the deer fleeing but Steve said deer patterns change naturally so the dynamics may move the deer but it is unclear if these are induced by the hunters.
- C. 4-Post Feeders –
 - a. The feeder in Supplee Valley East recorded 113 lbs. of corn consumed in about two weeks in March and is clearly the heaviest hit of any 4-Post Feeder placed thus far. It is difficult to calculate the number of deer treated because of small creature consumption and weather effects on permetherin levels; they will need a few years to establish a baseline. Al is concerned about adding corn to the deer's diet but Steve assured him that the feeders are only supplemental to the deer's diet and will likely be hardest hit in October/November when food shortage becomes an issue. Jim said corn is the optimal choice for the 4-post operation.
 - b. Members discussed how to gauge the success of the program – quantity of under-story regrowth and the need for an aerial survey in 5 and 10 years. Although non-supporters of hunting claim that deer are only replaced by more deer when hunted is unsubstantiated. Marty said the true success of the program would be the adoption of similar program by neighboring townships, which will truly mitigate migration effects. Members agree that even if deer population numbers remain the same, controlling the growth of the herd is key.
 - c. If consumption at various feeders is not apparent, locations of the feeders will be re-evaluated. Of the 10 feeders purchased, there are three left to place. Jim suggested Ashbridge (Willistown Trust is reviewing insurance issues first), Marydell and Bowtree by the double ponds. Their insurance does not cover the feeders if placed on private property, plus maintenance issues are blurred. Members agree to have Public Works place feeders at Marydell and Bowtree. Members briefly discussed other potential locations. Bob moved that the Deer Management Committee approve the placement of bait stations in Marydell Farms and Bowtree, and reserve one station for Ashbridge pending a response from the Willistown Conservation Trust. Matt seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

On behalf of the BOS, Marty thanked the DMC for their efforts and cooperation – they recognize the good program they developed and it will be interesting to watch the progress.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Bob made a motion to adjourn. Walter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary