

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19th, 2008**

The East Goshen Township Deer Management Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 19th, 2008 at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Jim McRee, members Al Zuccarello, Walter Wujcik and Bob Huebner, along with Mike Merwin (Township Building Inspector) and Chas Linder. Also in attendance were and Cy Shickora (Tri-County Deer Management Association), and The Chester County Trackers (from East Goshen).

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Jim McRee called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. No one is recording the meeting.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Due to clerical problems, the minutes from April 21 and May 5 were again tabled. They will all be presented at the June 2 meeting and gone over at that time.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. The Philadelphia Inquirer's Chester County section had an article reporting that there were only 2 opposed to the hunt and 10 in favor in addition to half a dozen that came to express opposition. A total of approximately 20 residents replied.

B. BUDGET REPORT

The budget report was passed on until the agenda could be updated.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. One new group put in an application for the hunt, the Chester County Trackers. Jim stated there were 2 decisions to make: "who we want" to participate in the Program, and "the areas they will be hunting". Steve stated that they would have had a discussion tonight, but would table it until we meet on 6/2/08, at which time it would be turned over to the supervisors on 6/17/08. The supervisors will decide which groups will hunt what areas. Jim Benoit with the "White Tail Group" is interested in Suplee E. & W. Cy Shickora with Tri County Deer Management Association, and Mr. Igo submitted the required paper work. They felt their #1 goal will be to take at least 20 does, because the deer use Wentworth as a pass through. They will harvest more if possible. (No bucks were seen on the property). Linda asked if they were comfortable with the space. Cy said he doesn't feel the property is too small, and they figure they can get 2 stands up and hunt 2-3 days a week. They are also willing to help private land owners with the hunt, as well as posting properties and picking up trash. The Chester County Trackers have 8 members at this time, and if they need to take on another property, they can get more members. Their plan is to knock deer down early so they don't have to track. Their group uses the meat, as well as donating it to the church. Because their group harvests a lot of deer on the 5 acres he manages, he feels they can manage 2 areas, but they won't over hunt (they would only hunt 2-3 times a week). Cy stated that they are interested in Grand Oak. They have seen a lot of doe & bucks traveling through there. They would also be interested in Mill Creek and Bow Tree Estates because they are very aware of where the deer travel and live because they live so near. There are no E.G. residents in the group, only W.G. On 6/1/08 they will apply for insurance. Jim recommended getting it because "we" insist on it. Al said a letter of intent would probably be

acceptable. Jim said the program states insurance is required at the time of the hunt. Bob stated a letter of intent should be good enough. Al reiterated. Land Owners Sportsman Alliance only has 3 members and their intent was to share. The commission discussed the possibility of separating properties. Bob does not think the property should be separated. At this time during the meeting, property owner Ann Quinn objected and asked, "Why do you think it's appropriate to hunt in our back yard, near where our children live?" Jim stated that they were within the PA game commission rules and Supplee Valley E. was the 1st property by 4-poster consumption. He also said that there is no hunting permitted 150 feet around homes or on properties if the land owner does not permit it. Ann Quinn interjected that children play near the creek; does she just have to take a chance with her children? Would Linda? Linda stated she would take the chance with her grandchildren. Al stated hunters in tree stands don't want to see children or houses when they are hunting. Ann asked, "Will they be hunting in your yard?" Al replied yes. Ann stated, "I am not against hunting in E.G., I am just against hunting near families and children. There have been accidents." Al stated only a few; Ann replied, "14, 14 accidents." Jim asked Ann if she considered safety when the deer management groups met previously. He stated they had adopted PGC rules. Ann asked, "Did you?" To which Jim replied, "Yes." Jim then explained the hunter takes 2 days of classes, and that is accepted by the Game Commission. Anyone with a PGC violation is not allowed to participate in the hunt. Al said the hunt club is the eyes & ears watching for poachers and they will call 911. Chris of Chester County Trackers tried to talk to and reassure her, the conversation went on for a long while. A member in the audience, John Gaul, asked if there had been poaching in the area. Ann replied yes. Ann reiterated that this was not necessary, it is recreational hunting. Linda replied it was necessary not recreational. Ann replied, "Yes it is." Sue Bernhart, a private land owner, asked how many home owners are allowing the hunt. Ann stated you stated that you got no input from Supplee Valley. Jim replied that the supervisors approved the program on the information they received. The decision on the hunt program (where and when) was made by the board of supervisors, not us. If you want to change their decision you will have to talk to them. Bob tried to reassure her they were not there to take away their activities, and are trying to work with land owners. The conversation went on about poaching. Sue stated, "Rules are meant to be broken." Jim asked if they took part in the survey in the April Newsletter. Linda asked if there was anything they could say to reassure her. It was decided that they could not reassure her, and should get on with the meeting. Jim asked if Steve was calling for referrals for which groups were recommended for what areas. Steve will make recommendations at the 6/2/08 meeting. Next stop will be 6/3/08 Supervisors meeting; they will make the decision of what groups and what spaces they will hunt. We can then tell the groups.

- B.** At this time there was a discussion about open spaces and marking trees so that it was not so noticeable to the home owners. Also making surveys to the inch, and that \$25,000 is not specified for the survey group. At this time there was a discussion about whether to go out with surveyors or maps in order to determine where property lines are.
- C.** Jim stated for the topics for the July 4th booth they needed to discuss all groups needed to be at the 6/2/08 meeting. They would cover:

1. Lyme disease information and 2 members of this committee needed to contact E.G. Park.
2. History: Independent and repetitive.
3. Treatment, prevention and management of hosts.
4. Accidents, photos.
5. Tick tubes for sale
6. 4-poster feeder on the site, to be seen.
7. Open public program with two way communication- residence invited to become new members for sustainment.
8. backed up by visual poster of Lyme disease, tick card
9. T-shirts E.G.org (at least 2 shifts of people.)

Bob got a 10'x10' tent and a large EG township map showing EG deer accidents and points, and accurate data with pictures to give to residents; a chance to give and get their views for the record.

- D. Al said great job by Steve; at which point Steve said his daughter had hit a deer and completely destroyed her Honda. He will bring photos of the accident.
- E. At this point Jim stated the committee should become a formal ABC and we will discuss it at the next meeting. It was also suggested they not be called Deer Management Committee. Next step- supervisors pass ordinance or resolution- DMC/ABC need new committee members and the 4th of July is a great time for this.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Chas stated two weeks ago the Mill Creed 4-poster feeder was removed due to vandalism, again. Last week's corn consumption was over 500 lbs sites in Ridley Creek 120 lbs., Souflee Valley 100 lbs. Al asked, "Did we put signs up on the feeders that they are there for their benefit?" Chas said yes they had, they also say "Insecticide. Stay away." The sign was knocked over and tore off its supports. Jim, Linda, and Bob don't think kids will care about the sign. There was a long discussion over whether to replace it or put it deeper into the woods. Insurance won't cover it. Also discussed were we putting them out too soon? If the larvae don't hatch until May into June, then the nymphs don't hatch until July, August; we should wait until April.
- B. The 4-poster feeders will need to be pulled 4 weeks before the hunt.
- C. State Farm took their proposal to public affairs. They don't want any negative publicity in funding the hunt. Therefore, no grant.

6. FUTURE

- A. Future meeting scheduled June 16th. July and August workshops might be taken off the board and begin again in September.

7. ADJORNMENT

- A. Steve made a motion for adjournment, it was seconded by Walt. No public comment. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____