

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2008**

The East Goshen Township Deer Management Commission held a meeting on Monday, July 10, 2008 at 7:05 p.m. at the East Goshen Township Building. In attendance were Chairman Jim McRee, as well as members Walter Wujcik, Steve DiAntonio, Bob Heubner, Linda Polishuk, Al Zuccarello, and Matt Keating. Also in attendance were Marty Shane, Charles Linder, and members of various deer management groups.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman, Jim McRee, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim introduced Mary Lou Knight who will take on the responsibilities of the recording secretary. A moment of silence was observed for Mark Gordon and other troops who are serving overseas.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 21, 2008, June 2, 2008 and June 16, 2008 we reviewed and corrected. Jim moved that corrections be made and Al seconded the motion. There was no further public comment or discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. No report was given on the DMC presentation at East Goshen fireworks.
- B. The volume of communication from residents has dropped off significantly from that received in April/May. Al remarked that encouraging letters have been received from approximately two dozen residents.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Age and experience hunter requirements for deer management program

- Minimum Age Requirement for Hunters – Considerable discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of teen-age hunters. Linda felt that an appropriate age would be 21. The deer management groups require that those hunters with a junior license be accompanied by an adult. There was concern that at age 16, the teen would not be mature enough to interact well with a homeowner should a violation occur. Skill levels were discussed. Trish O'Hara was of the opinion that a 16 year old is not responsible enough to for bow hunting. Steve made a motion that a hunter must be 18 years old to participate in the deer hunt in East Goshen Township. Matt seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- Require Minimum Archery Experience – Jim indicated that the hunting groups have a certification process, and this process was outlined. The Committee will look to the leadership of each group for its expertise. Considerable discussion ensued. Matt made a motion requiring two years of archery/deer hunting experience resulting in confirmed kills of one deer per year. Walter seconded and the vote was in the majority with Linda

opposing. Marty suggested that the groups give feedback to the Committee on an ongoing basis.

- B. A Lyme disease forum will be presented by Representative Art Hershey; Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Octoraro High School in West Fallowfield Township Further information on this presentation will be posted in the township newsletter.

C. Discussion with Pennsylvania Game Warden

Officer Scott Fredericks joined the meeting. Jim welcomed him. Officer Fredericks (Scott) is a State Game Warden, Wild Life Conservation Officer and is assigned to Northern Chester County which includes 31 townships and 370 sq. miles. He outlined his duties. Jim asked if he could comment on the township's archery hunting program after he had an opportunity to examine it, and he agreed to do so.

Officer Fredericks summarized the rules relating to bait stations. He stated that baiting could not be done on state public land; however, that rule does not apply to the township. Discussion ensued.

Scott indicated that licensed archery hunters are proficient overall, and there is no cost involved to the township as opposed to controlling the herd with sharpshooters and/or making use of a contraception method. When asked what the ratio should be of bucks to does in a healthy herd, he had no specific answer. He also had no specific answer to how many does should be taken before allowing hunting of bucks. The Officer did, however, describe various scenarios used throughout the State. Scott suggested that deer specific questions should be answered by the State's regional biologist.

He indicated that a rule now allows a hunter in a stand to take consecutive shots at multiple deer without leaving the stand to tag the first kill, and there is no limit on how long the hunter can remain in the stand before affixing the tag. Jim explained the distances from structures proposed in the township's program and asked if the distances were sufficient. Scott stated that assuming hunting is done from a stand; the typical shot is 25 yards, therefore, the proposed distances are fine. Discussion ensued regarding no hunter taking a shot if the hunter is aware of a person within 50 yards of a deer.

Scott described the deer control permit issued by the U. S. Department of Wildlife Services. The permit would allow the township to contract with a sharpshooter to use a silenced rifle to kill deer at night. A background check of that person would be required. The Game Commission is heavily involved, and the cost is significant. As opposed to using a sharpshooter, Scott stated that a township in southern Bucks County has used an archery based manager control hunt program very successfully

In answer to a question from Jim, Scott stated that the game laws can only be enforced by the Game Commission officers. Should a situation arise, residents should call 911 or the township office. Local police could take information and the Game Commission would follow up. Discussion ensued. Marty Shane asked if, as a result of these kinds of programs, poaching was more prevalent. Scott answered that licensed hunters were likely to report a person acting strangely. Bob asked if road accidents involving deer were escalated during the hunting and/or mating seasons. Scott stated that the mating season of

October/November saw the most accidents. In response to an inquiry from Marty, Scott responded that he would be available to answer questions at an upcoming meeting.

The township's goals regarding safety were discussed at length, and Scott will get back to the Committee on the number of archery injuries which occurred last year. He pointed to some very successful programs in Kennett Square and Bucks County. Scott's opinion was that requiring a minimum age for hunting in the program was a good thing. Jim thanked Scott for joining the meeting. He appointed Chas as the township's liaison with Scott.

- D.** Jim stated that a program funded through the Health Department is offering a free tick removal tool to contributors to the program. Jim would like to pursue the idea of the township funding something small such as offering tick tubes at a discount.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** Deer Management program action items were discussed as follows:

- Jim referenced maps showing the homeowner's property line, the hunting areas, and the proposed safety zones. He pointed out the difference in the maps. Considerable discussion ensued. In response to a question from a resident, Jim indicated that a homeowner can give permission to hunt on his property, but that has to be arranged directly with the hunting groups. The homeowner also has the option of waiving the safety zone around his property. Matt made a motion to create a 50 ft. safety zone inside the open space property line, at a minimum, which may be waived by the Township at the request of the adjoining land owner, and also allow the land owner to waive the 150 ft. safety zone requirement from an occupied dwelling. Al seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- Discussion ensued regarding limiting the number of deer management group members using open space to the number of usable tree stands and prohibiting driving deer to the open space. Linda felt that it should be up to the management groups. Matt made a motion to approve #4 of the deer management program action items as written, Walter seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- Jim referenced the rule that all archers in the program must have completed a Pennsylvania Hunter's Safety Course and a Bow Hunter Safety Course within the last ten years. The management groups outlined their member requirements. Matt made a motion to approve #5 of the deer management program action items as written. Walter seconded and the vote passed unanimously.
- Jim indicated that hunting will only be allowed Monday through Friday. He asked for opinions on adding limited Saturday hours. Walter was opposed to hunting on Halloween. There was no further discussion. No motion was made.
- As written in the deer management program action items, groups will disclose to the township their total number of bow hunting permits in order to ensure that enough deer are harvested for the township to meet its goal of 35 to 40 deer per year. Considerable discussion ensued. The committee felt that the township really did not need this information and felt that a better way to score the hunt was a report on the number of deer taken. No motion was made.

- Discussion ensued regarding crossbow use by persons with disabilities. Jim indicated that the Game Commission allows their use. The consensus of the Committee was that there should be no action taken on this item.
 - Item #9 of the deer management program action items was not discussed.
 - Deer management groups must tell the township the location of the tree stands so those stands can be pinpointed on a map. If changes in location are requested, the township will approve the new site. Discussion ensued regarding why a hunter would want to move a stand. Management groups must label their stands so that they are identified with that particular group. Marty suggested that residents could identify locations of tree stands by coming into the township building to view the map. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the stands becoming an attractive nuisance should children attempt to climb them, and parents have expressed their concern in this regard. The program requires removing access to the tree stands when they are not in use. In addition, it was pointed out that most of the hunting areas are undeveloped and are inhospitable to children. Officer Fredericks suggested that the hunters provide small zones for the change of location so that the hunters do not have to provide the specific tree in which their stand is located. Jim made a motion to approve the item with the change that hunters will only have to report the zone of the relocation. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, amended.
 - Al made a motion to accept #11 of the deer management program action items as written. Bob seconded and the vote was unanimous.
 - Matt made a motion to accept #12 of the deer management program action items as written. Steve seconded. The vote was unanimous.
 - The open spaces will be marked with white dots painted on the trees facing the open space. This will let the hunters identify the property line. Chas will obtain the paint. The deer management groups have been asked to do this job. If they can't do so, they should let the township know. The township will mark the open space entry points. Al pointed out that this first year of the program will be the most laborious.
- B** Chas gave an update on the 4-poster feeder/bait stations. Four units were empty at Lockwood Chase. There has been very little vandalism. Chas will send trail cam photos taken at Wentworth to Jim.
- C.** Tick-tubes are selling well.
- D.** On behalf of the Committee, Bob thanked Chas and the Public Works department for all their help with the July 4th display tent.
- E.** Steve indicated that when conducting resource and background checks, violations can be checked with the Pennsylvania Game Commission

6. ANY OTHER MATTER

Jim noted that the DMC will meet on August 18 and September 8, 2008. Open issues for discussion prior to hunting season are the subjects of parking tags and parking areas. Steve will have primary contact with the groups. The Police Department will play a part in controlling the parking areas.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

8. ADJOURNMENT

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Walter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. There was no further discussion or public comment. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Mary Lou Knight, Recording Secretary