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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
1580 PAOLI PIKE
NOVEMBER 17, 2008**

15 The East Goshen Township Deer Management Committee held their regularly scheduled
16 meeting on Monday, October 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township building.

17 Members in attendance were: Chairman Jim McRee, members John Babiec, Steve
18 DiAntonio, Chuck Matasic and Matt Keating. Linda Polishuk and Al Zucarello were
19 absent. Marty Shane (Board of Supervisors) and Chas Linder (Public Works) were also
20 in attendance.

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1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

24 Jim McRee called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led everyone in the Pledge of
25 Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the troops. It was noted that Mark
26 Gordon is back from Afghanistan.

27 Leo Sinclair, resident of 217 Lochwood Lane stated he would be recording the meeting.
28 John Babiec noted that residents can make audio/video recordings of meetings.

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2. MINUTES

32 Corrections were made to the October 20 minutes, which the committee reviewed and
33 approved as corrected.

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**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
UPDATE**

37 Jim McRee reviewed the Deer Management Progress update and asked for feedback on
38 it. He went through the Herd Reduction highlights. Jim defined the terms "illegal
39 hunting" and unauthorized hunting. Illegal hunting is hunting outside of Deer
40 Management Program that violates it or other laws. Unauthorized hunting is lawful
41 hunting that occurs within the Deer Management Program, but that violates one or more
42 rules within the DMP. Illegal hunters were told not to come back. Incidents noted in
43 report were cited and corrective actions took place with hunters who misunderstood rules.
44 He reported that fewer deer are being seen and are moving to open space edges. They
45 seem to be drawn to feeders.

Jim referred to Program-Level Metrics for feedback on whether information was useful.
Hunter percentages are down some from last month. Bow Tree and Clocktower
utilization is highest at 83%. There is a question about how accurate schedules are. How
useful and valuable are they. Schedules are 87% accurate. Zone add accuracy is 100%.
Schedules look good. Groups are routing to new hunting zones, and hunters may be
going to other areas. BowTree has had a lot of cancellations.

1 Leo Sinclair noted vehicles were observed. He would like a record made of vehicle
2 make, model and date observed. He noted 2 vehicles in Grand Oak area and police were
3 called.

4
5 Sue Bernard, 220 N. Lochwood Lane questioned the accuracy of schedules. Page 7 of
6 Schedule Accuracy and “zone adds” were discussed and questioned. It was suggested
7 that people are not watching the website for scheduling. Committee will get back to
8 group to reinforce schedules. Differences between hunting and tracking were noted.
9 There is much concern about safety in neighborhoods where hunting is taking place.

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11 Ron Zeleski, 217 N. Lochwood questioned the schedules given and said cars are there
12 when they are not supposed to be. Jim explained that hunters were there tracking deer.
13 Steve D’Antonio and Chas explained the tracking system, deer stands and their efforts to
14 chart time of day when tracking is taking place. Ron Zeleski would like DMC to act now
15 so families feel more safe in hunting areas. Chuck Matasic observed that harvesting and
16 production are accomplishing the job. The largest parcel has the best response rate with
17 the most hunter groups. Jim noted that other areas have fewer hunters, thus lower
18 harvesting rates. John Babiec asked if there is desirable accuracy. The 3 areas with
19 higher percentages have fewer cancellations, which makes the differences look larger.

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21 Sue Bernard, Ron Zeleski and Ann Quinn, 215 N. Lochwood all engaged in discussion
22 on number of hunters, members of groups, local addresses of hunters.

23
24 Leo Sinclair stated that his group, “Safety First for East Goshen” ha been collecting
25 complaints from residents about the Deer Management Program. He said he encourages
26 the residents reporting complaints to also inform the township, police, of PA Game
27 Commission. Jim McRee stated that only Ellen Sinclair had passed on any complaints
28 and there were only three, a couple of months ago. He asked Leo Sinclair to share the
29 content of the complaints with the township so they could be investigated and acted upon.
30 Leo Sinclair refused, citing privacy concerns of the residents. Jim McRee informed Leo
31 Sinclair that the township could do nothing about resident complaints that are not shared
32 with the township, the residents, or his own group by refusing to share what might be
33 critical safety or other incident information. Leo Sinclair refused to share any of the
34 complaint information.

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36 It was felt that Board of Supervisors is unresponsive to needs of neighbors and their
37 safety concerns. Both Marty Shane and Jim McRee stressed that residents must let the
38 committee know about problems. The also reiterated that residents should call police.
39 Some residents have also called the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). Marty
40 Shane explained differences in how PGC and township police handle incident reports,
41 and asked that committee and township officials be notified of problems so they can be
42 addressed. Jim McRee noted that the police have been responsive when called about
43 incidents, and again said residents need to let police, committee and township know if
44 there are perceived violations. Many residents are contacting other residents or Leo
45 Sinclair and his website and not reporting to authorities.

1 Marty Shane said he is aware that people are opposed to the Deer Management Program,
2 and Board of Supervisors, DMC and township are trying to resolve matters, but he feels
3 that residents are not sharing information with authorities. All emails and phone calls are
4 responded to. Meetings have been held with police, enforcing township ordinances.
5 PGC enforces its own offences and don't have as many officers as EGT does. Also EGT
6 can only deal with its own ordinances, not those of PGC. The Board of Supervisors has
7 not found any problems with poachers or illegal hunters in the area. Residents feel
8 hunters and trackers should not be in residential areas on Sundays when residents are out
9 with families. Marty will check on other alternatives, but this is the only program
10 available this year. In an over one-hour discussion residents made their concerns known
11 about opposition, unhappiness and safety concerns about hunting in their neighborhoods.
12 In order to get to the bottom of problems, residents must communicate to Board of
13 Supervisors.

14
15 Matt Keating said police will respond to charges that are being referred to PGC, and
16 requests that alleged activities be reported to police who will respond to incidents. Jim
17 McRee clarified that poaching is hunting out of season between January and September
18 Illegal hunting is breaking the law hunting in season. It was pointed out that there were
19 some administrative problems with hunters who were warned to adhere to posted
20 schedule. These administrative errors have been rectified.

21 22 **5. DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

23 Jim McRee gave a report on the Deer-Vehicle Collisions. A Deer Vehicle Collision
24 Report was given out with data going back to 2003. The DVCs in East Goshen are
25 trending higher in 12 month period. John Babiec said there is a 50% increase in DVCs
26 for Chester County. Deer pickup details are included in this report. There were 195
27 pickups in Chester County in October. It is hoped that the Board of Supervisors will fund
28 or help find grants for deer avoidance collision systems.

29
30 There is no funding available for deer management devices, but grant applications and
31 requests for funding should be addressed to Board of Supervisors for next year's budget.

32 33 34 **6. TICK PROGRAM**

35 Chas gave an update on tick program and showed lights for deer crossing signs that
36 committee hopes to put up. They will flash with sensors attached to warning signs at
37 appropriate times of day when deer are roaming. He needs to know the total number of
38 deer crossing signs to obtain flashers, and requested direction from DMC. Marty Shane
39 requested that we revise request for flasher prior to Board of Supervisors meeting on
40 December 16 when budget appropriations will be discussed. Chas is keeping an eye on
41 Line Road/Paoli Pike open space and requested people to call police if hunters are on
42 large opens space corner. Hunting in Applebrook property is legal. Marty Shane noted
43 that natural habitat in Willistown is pushing deer toward East Goshen.

44
45 There was discussion on lyme disease program. Would it make sense to keep 4-posters
46 out throughout year to treat ticks? 135 lbs. of corn could be saved if boxes were pulled.

1 It appears that with temperatures under 40° ticks go into hibernation. Jim suggested
2 boxes be pulled next week and use money for purchasing warning lights. It is requested
3 that deer be check for ticks when they are killed. The committee decided to take in all
4 the remaining 4-posters for the season.

6 **7. GOALS FOR 2009**

7 Early in January a meeting of chairs and ABCs will discuss what worked in 2008 and
8 what they want to see happen in 2009. Question was raised about what to do next year.
9 Matt Keating suggested measuring 2008 effectiveness. Were goals achieved and
10 realistic? Look at problems, course corrections needed. Measure performance against
11 budget.

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13 Discussion on effectiveness of lyme disease program. Suggestions included asking West
14 Chester University, Penn State, East High and/or Boy Scouts to work on a project to
15 measure tick testing. See if regional data are available to establish a baseline. Send a
16 link on website for how to report ticks for testing. We will need a coordinator for this
17 program. Newsletter articles should cover shared responsibility for tick programs. John
18 Babiec will contact West Chester University. Linda Polishuk will be asked to pitch grant
19 for tick program/deer collision. John will report back in mid-December. Chuck Matasic
20 requested we look at programs more suitable to residents who have objections to the
21 program. Marty Shane asked committee to look at data, see if we could cut down the
22 number of days for hunting and harvesting to satisfy residents, and rotate schedules for
23 hunting.

24
25 Steve D'Antonio said his group keeps daily diary of where deer are, logs that tell hunters
26 where deer are going, and trying to establish foundations for patterns, time when deer are
27 bedding and feeding. They are compiling this information throughout the season to
28 justify how much time is spent, and which deer can be harvested. He suggested that deer
29 be able to more freely. The schedule process is onerous for hunters. Other properties let
30 hunters in when they see it appropriate to be hunting. Weather is another important
31 consideration. What would be the least amount of time in areas should be evaluated for
32 next year.

34 **8. OTHER MATTERS**

35 Al Zuccarello is stepping down from committee and chair and vice chair positions are up
36 for election next year.

37
38 Chuck Matasic requested better signs for hunting. Wording and interpretation of signs
39 needs to be clarified. Steve D'Antonio asked Township Solicitor to look at wording and
40 review for clarification. Wording on signs is key to protect township and committee and
41 needs to be re-evaluated. Matt Keating asked if signs should be revised now, and it was
42 agreed that they should, with stronger sign wording done immediately. Marty Shane
43 suggested drafting signs for hunting – permitted and not permitted. Parks and Recreation
44 should be contacted for comments. Chuck suggested a roster be made for each hunting
45 group, with additions submitted as roster changes, and that a vehicle roster be made. It
46 was requested that local addresses be put on the hunting group roster as well.

1 Steve D'Antonio said people cannot be restricted from being on open spaces.

2
3 John Babiec pointed out that complaints would be relevant to committee to work together
4 with township residents instead of being in an adversarial position. If there are problems,
5 make them known to committee so residents and DMC can work together. Marty Shane
6 pointed out that Board of Supervisors did what is best for the 18,000 residents of EGT,
7 but cannot satisfy opponents to the program. Pending lawsuits make it more difficult to
8 resolve communications problems. Also if some residents are setting themselves up as
9 watchdogs, their own agenda is being set. Jim McRee asked for resident input for
10 suggestions on how to help community work together instead of against each other. He
11 asked residents to please share information and data with committee.

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13 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

14 Chuck Matasic moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt Keating seconded the
15 motion. Next meeting will be held December 15, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 9:30
16 pm.

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18 Respectfully submitted,

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22 Barbara Woodin
23 Recording Secretary