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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
EAST GOSHEN TWP BUILDING
JANUARY 26, 2009**

6 The East Goshen Township Deer Management Committee held their regularly scheduled
7 meeting on Monday, January 26, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township Building.

9 In attendance were: Chair - Jim McRee, members - Chuck Matasic, Matt Keating, Linda
10 Polishuk and Al Zuccarello. Chas Linder (Public Works) and Marty Shane (Twp.
11 Supervisor). Jim Buck, a guest, was also in attendance. Dr. Gerard Hertel from the
12 Department of Biology at West Chester University, (guest) information update. John
13 Babiec was absent, excused.

14
15 **1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

16 The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The chairman led those present
17 in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the troops serving
18 in Afghanistan. Hearty congratulations were extended to Jim McRee on the recent
19 birth of twins; a gift from Linda Polishuk was given to him and toasts (non-alcoholic
20 juice) were enjoyed by all.

21
22 **2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2008 MINUTES**

23 Since minutes were not included in packet sent to members it was decided to
24 review/correct and approve those minutes at the next meeting in February.

25
26 **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

27 Jim announced that Steve D'Antonio and Al Zuccarello are resigning from the
28 committee. The National Park Service gave us a study with recommendations for
29 combining sharp-shooting, fencing, contraceptives for our use. The preferred goal is
30 10 deer per square mile. Our goal was 35 per square mile. There is concern about
31 chronic wasting disease being drawn into the area, a disease that is reported through
32 brain samples of dead deer. Committee will look at road kill and hunting, and also at
33 sharp-shooting next year. There is a Dept. of Agriculture person we can contact for
34 further information. Al Zuccarello said sharp shooting with high powered rifles
35 leaves "a bad taste" to him, as possibilities of risk are greater. They should only be
36 shooting at night in a constructed shooting area. Chuck Matasic said, looking at the
37 money spent in this economy of \$300 per deer, we got a lot of value. ("More bang for
38 the buck!"). 40-42 deer were harvested saving \$12,000. Al said the season was
39 highly successful, on target, and we will keep refining procedures and processes. The
40 township was saved \$10-15,000 of expenses this year.

41
42 Anne Quinn, 215 N. Lochwood Lane objected to a statement that the program is on
43 "cruise control". Many residents are still unhappy about the deer
44 management/harvesting program in their particular areas.

45
46 **4. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

1 Tabulations on above will be available at next meeting. The program went well,
2 especially with all the hands-on labor marking areas, and Chas and his staff did a
3 great job. Group reporting can be streamlined, posted on the website, via email and
4 cell phones. Marty Shane noted that there is an email program on the website for
5 residents to use, both incoming and outgoing, to share ideas with the township and
6 committees.

7
8 There were no accidents and one group helped catch 2 illegal hunters, who will go on
9 trial in March. No one's safety was jeopardized, the committee's primary concern.
10 There are still scheduling problems, safety concerns, and hunters showing up where
11 they are not supposed to be. This will be addressed in the upcoming deer season.
12 Anne Quinn mentioned an incident in Supplee where 2 young men had new BB guns
13 they were trying out while hunters were there. She expressed concern for their safety.
14 It was pointed out that use of BB guns is not allowed, and also open areas are
15 accessible to all residents. Jim reiterated the policy of deer management and how
16 follow up is taking place. Marty suggested looking at issues for safety next year,
17 feeling that the program is being run safely, the key to success of the program.
18 Archery hunting is safe and it is unusual for accidents to happen. Linda pointed out
19 that if there is a lot of activity in certain areas, the deer just go away.
20

21 **5. DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

22 There were 4 in December. We hope to see more benefits in the future with signage
23 and other warnings. Chas gave a report on the Deer Sign Map he generated, and was
24 praised for his efforts and all the work that went into putting it together. He said we
25 need more signs and flashers and they hope to buy more flashers next year. There
26 was discussion on the 5-page maps with all the red dotted areas showing where deer
27 are found. This map was given to all committee members. He noted that Penn DOT
28 must approve all state road signs. Matt Keating noted that it is unusual to see 5 kills
29 at or near Wilson Drive. There are many deer in the Hershey's Mill area, coming out
30 of the Bryn Mawr rehab area from a thicket of woods.

31
32 The map is a very useful tool to determine roadway protection systems. We should
33 see what grants are available to help fund new systems. It was suggested that maps
34 be put into township newsletter or linked from the website.
35

36 Chuck suggested moving or adding signs, and putting this on the February agenda if
37 necessary. Signs could be bought or moved. We should come up with a list of
38 recommendations for the February meeting. What do we want to do? Portable signs
39 are a possibility, but we may have to get permission from state or supervisors. Marty
40 asked if any residential areas might be interested in putting up their own signs.
41 Ridley Creek construction is chasing deer out of that area.
42

43 February 3 is the date for budget review. Senator Dinniman's office said they hope to
44 get on the March agenda, and Linda has been in contact with a representative from his
45 office who may be able to point us to the decision maker for grants. Joe Gill will be
46 responsible for grant programs as soon as he gets settled in his new position with the

1 township. Writing, building relationships will be helpful in getting grants, and
2 finding the person responsible for same. Linda wrote up information on what we
3 want for grants. Carmen Battavio and Tom Clapper are grant resource persons we
4 can call on. There was discussion on making the committee a formal commission,
5 but there are legal mechanics involved, and we have more flexibility as an ad hoc
6 committee. We should learn in February if there is money for grants, for fencing on
7 Rt. 202 which is very expensive.

9 **6. TICK PROGRAM UPDATE**

10 Dr. Gerry Hertel discussed lyme disease and scientific studies that have been done.
11 He questioned how effective the 4-posters are. A tick study would be a way of
12 measuring improvements or changes. He said to look at the science, do something
13 based on best practices and scientific data available. He suggested laying out a plan
14 for tick population reduction. The science is already there, so a tick survey would not
15 be necessary. Deer population should be reduced to stop ticks. If the 4-posters are
16 maintained the tick population is reduced. It is important to be on track to get to a
17 level to break the disease cycle, and it will reduce the number of people coming down
18 with lyme disease. He encouraged the committee not to spend money to do
19 unnecessary science (already studied). He also mentioned that science doesn't
20 support the effectiveness of tick tubes. Gerry Hertel said our limited resources can be
21 used most effectively, that tick studies are very expensive. Put something on our
22 website about the tick plan. UConn has a website on tick management studies which
23 perhaps could be linked to our website. He gave committee members a page from the
24 UConn tick management program.

26 Al Zuccarello said our program is set, we want to find ways to get surrounding
27 townships to join us as we simplify and refine our program. He also said he enjoyed
28 working with the committee, and felt we had made a lot of progress in the several
29 years the committee has been operational. He suggested keeping the goals to deer
30 and ticks, simplify program where necessary and advisable.

32 Linda suggested our supervisors reach out to other townships and supervisors to get
33 cooperation and encourage their residents to participate. Cost is a big factor. Tom
34 could go to other COGs and tell them what East Goshen is doing, and ask if they
35 would like to copy what we are doing so that county wide management programs
36 could be implemented. This is a county-wide problem and investment should be
37 made to span multiple townships.

39 Al said the program is now solidified. There is a comprehensive plan to present to
40 the COG. We need better approaches. If we continue with the tick tubes, it could
41 generate some income or will break even. He thinks we should keep doing it because
42 the tubes are useful tools. Marty suggested that the tick tubes are probably not as
43 effective as the manufacturers claim. We will check with Dr. Hertel to get more
44 information.

46 **7. GOALS FOR 2009**

1 Deer estimates – how accurate are they?
2 Work with surrounding townships
3 Keep deer management tick program
4 Track deer vehicle collisions
5 A tick study will not be necessary
6

7 Marty suggested encouraging hunting groups, to keep moving with our own goals,
8 show more progress, not more infiltration so we have fewer deer each year. We can
9 cut down the number of hunting days if population declines. Knowing the time of
10 day, being on the right land, productivity of hunters are all things to calculate. It
11 takes 2-3 years to get useful information on cutting down harvest time.
12

13 Jim talked about “lessons learned”. If we had marked out boundaries and set stands
14 out earlier, with better signage it would be more efficient for hunters to begin when
15 season opens. He suggested marking boundaries now since there is no foliage in the
16 way. Chuck said he was surprised at the number of does killed, that hunting groups
17 did a good job.
18

19 Anne Quinn reiterated the concerns of many residents about safety. Complaints have
20 been responded to by the township and police. She was asked to give the committee
21 suggestions on what to consider for safety, which is her biggest concern. Al said the
22 goals are to kill deer, kill ticks and safety above all.
23

24 **8. OTHER MATTERS**
25 NO REPORT
26

27 **9. NEW BUSINESS – 2009 PLANNING SESSION**

28 A “Battle plan” and mission statement are necessary. Questions were asked about the
29 expense report, cost of the Yerkes survey and solicitors’ charges for lawsuits, cost of
30 corn, etc.
31

32 **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**
33 NONE
34

35 A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. Due to the
36 President’s Day Holiday on February 16, the next meeting will be held February 23,
37 2009.
38

39 Respectfully submitted,
40

41
42 Barbara Woodin
43 Recording Secretary