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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER COMMITTEE
EAST GOSHEN TWP BUILDING
February 23, 2009**

The East Goshen Township Deer Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township Building.

In attendance were: Chair - Jim McRee, members - Chuck Matasic, Matt Keating, and Linda Polishuk. John Babiec was absent, excused. Marty Shane (Twp. Supervisor) also attended.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the troops.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2008 MINUTES

Minutes from December 15, 2008 and January 26, 2009 were approved as corrected.

Gloria Rising, 1347 Mark Drive (Supplee Valley) attended the meeting and asked several questions. She also contributed suggestions and positive comments to the committee. She asked how this year's bow hunting affected the number of deer (approximately 300, the minimal count which would be 30 per square mile) reported in East Goshen Twp. The goal is to reduce the herd to 15 per square mile. Jim McRee explained that the DMC's assignment is to define the problem, find out how many deer we had, dating from the count done in March 2007. There is a risk of over or under counting deer. We are awaiting data to confirm that 40 deer were killed during the past hunting season. (See Item 6 for rest of discussion.)

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The two new members, Tina Mussari and Jim Ryland were not in attendance, possibly due to confusion on the meeting schedule. Copies of their appointment letters were included in the meeting packet. They will be given an orientation before the next meeting.

Jim asked for volunteers to write articles for the quarterly township newsletter. Articles are due two months prior to publication. Matt Keating offered to write an article for the July newsletter on Lyme disease. An article for the September newsletter would speak to ramping up for deer hunting season, and the committee will address crucial goals in future newsletters. Marty Shane noted again that there are 20 different categories listed on the website which residents can easily look up, as well as links to other pertinent information.

Members were asked to focus on different areas on which to concentrate efforts for the coming year. John and Chuck will concentrate on the Deer Management

1 program. Linda will try to meet with Joe Gill about grant money. Linda has tried to
2 work with Andy Dinneman's office, but thus far has not been able to get information
3 regarding grants. Jim will also work on this.
4

5 **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009 (CHAIRMAN –VICE CHAIRMAN)**

6 Jim McRee was re-elected and John Babiec was elected to serve in these positions.
7

8 **5. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION**

9 Matt and new committee members will work on newsletter articles, posting issues on
10 the website with important points for public outreach. The Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th
11 celebration and Pumpkin Festival are all gatherings we can use for outreach on Lyme
12 disease, vehicle collisions and other areas the DC is focusing on, in an effort to better
13 communicate to the community what the DC is doing and can do. Marty noted it
14 seems like there was a significant reduction in deer vehicle collisions. Assuming the
15 deer population is increasing we will try to correlate data from the other 57 townships
16 in collisions. East Goshen is 10th among the 57 townships in collisions. It is hoped
17 that East Goshen can contact other townships to coordinate a combined effort to enlist
18 their aid in a program like ours to reduce the deer population.
19

20 Deer movement correlates with weather and seasonal patterns in their movements.
21 They herd more in January to protect themselves from the cold weather, disperse in
22 the spring and more extensively in the fall mating seasons. Jim said he has a library
23 of articles which could be used to build out DC's website, explain the reasons for our
24 approach, and backup to the wildlife studies done elsewhere.
25

26 Marty advised using good press articles to evaluate our programs and balance the
27 negative articles, linking to other websites. Joe Gill will be interested in how we
28 frame our website as that is an area of his expertise. Marty stressed getting people to
29 use the website which will cut mailing costs, as well as pushing content onto the
30 website.
31

32 We will stress Lyme disease and road safety in the spring. In the fall we will speak to
33 hunting programs and collisions. Marty said it is important to tie together
34 information on Lyme disease and vehicle collisions to promote the purpose of the
35 Deer Committee. There was discussion on the environmental issue of deer stripped
36 underbrush which prevents new saplings and plants from growing and renewing
37 public areas. A good example is the Weston Company's site on King Road where
38 there is no existing underbrush. This could be used as an educational tool for
39 residents to see the impact of deer with possible solutions of fencing off an
40 experimental area to promote growth of trees and plans.
41

42 **6. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

43 Gloria said she plants deer resistant flowers and plants, and makes her own deer
44 resistant sprays to keep deer away from her property. She sees whole herds of deer
45 out her back door, is all for a more aggressive approach to getting rid of deer, and
46 would encourage more hunting.

1
2 The number of deer harvested in East Goshen Township can be measured from
3 producing a report and history from the cards returned from hunters (although the
4 response rate is 40-50%) to get an idea of how many deer have been removed. We
5 should have more information on that for next month's meeting agenda. Also on the
6 March and April agendas will be discussion of changes for next year. Jim wants the
7 records to go to Township Supervisors by April/May if we make changes to the
8 updated Deer Management program. We need to discuss at the April meeting what
9 needs to be done, so supervisors can put that information out in June, and Deer
10 Management groups can plan ahead. Chuck would like to communicate with
11 residential groups who would be open to having hunters use their areas. Local food
12 banks have benefitted from the venison given to them which they have donated to
13 residents in need.

14
15 Marty advocated showing the success of our programs to other townships so they will
16 take measures to participate in their own Deer Management Programs. We should
17 tell them what we are doing and ask them to share our program by promoting it to
18 their residents.

19
20 Jim will email the general schedule for the year to committee members.

21 22 **7. DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

23 Jim distributed copies of a comprehensive DVC report with data from the
24 Pennsylvania Game Commission's road-kill contractor for Chester County. The most
25 dangerous times are November and December. He presented a graph of DV
26 collisions by municipality, from which data we should try to leverage our program
27 with other nearby townships to work together. Page 3 indicates Deer Pick-up details
28 by location, gender and age. Police get information on collisions basically for
29 insurance company purposes when property damage is included. However, if
30 collisions are not reported by vehicle owners there is no way to capture those
31 numbers. Committee members and Marty complimented Jim on his thorough,
32 insightful report. The committee thanked Gloria Rising for attending the meeting,
33 and providing useful information to us on measures she has taken to discourage deer
34 from her property.

35
36 Grant requests must be presented to supervisors, but we should pursue any and all
37 grant money wherever possible.

38
39 Signs – Penn DOT will be asked to clear back growth on roads further from signage.
40 Chuck doesn't feel signs are generating the attention of drivers, as was noted by Chas
41 at the last meeting. He feels that more signage purchase is questionable due to cost
42 and inefficiency.

1 **8. Lyme Disease**

2 4-posters will be put out in April. The big concern is whether 4-posters attract deer
3 from further away to feed here. Discussion centered on how to keep 4-posters from
4 being chewed through by other animals. It was suggested that hunting groups bait
5 areas where they are hunting.

6
7 We also need to get more information on treatment of ticks from mice infections
8 which are transported by birds, and infected ticks then reach humans. Although only
9 a small percentage of ticks are infected, Lyme disease is rising. The Conn.
10 Fairfield/Ridgefield area study which Gerry Hertel gave us has been useful, and one
11 of the study group's scientists has corresponded with Jim via email expressing help
12 and support for our DMC.

13
14 **9. OTHER MATTERS**

15 No Report

16
17 **10. NEW BUSINESS –**

18 No report

19
20 **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

21 NONE

22
23 Policy question – re: ethics form. Call Diane Degnan to find out if it needs to be
24 filled out, since we are an ad hoc committee.

25
26 A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. The next meeting
27 is scheduled for March 16, 2009.

28
29 Respectfully submitted,

30
31
32
33 Barbara Woodin
34 Recording Secretary