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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER COMMITTEE
EAST GOSHEN TWP BUILDING
1580 Paoli Pike
April 20, 2009**

D R A F T

The East Goshen Township Deer Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township Building.

In attendance were: Chair - Jim McRee, members – Matt Keating, John Babiec, Linda Polishuk, and Jim Ryland. Chuck Matasic was absent. Mark Gordon, (Twp. Zoning Officer) was welcomed back and Chas Linder (Public Works) and Terri Bonenberger, (Twp. Mapping Contact) were present.

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 March 16, 2009 were not in the packet, so reading, corrections and approval will have to wait until the May meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jim McRee will present recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at their 5/8/09 meeting to finalize progress report from last year. He will give the Board a red-lined copy, summary letter of changes, a final copy of the report, and a PowerPoint presentation deck from the Deer Management Program. In June, the Board of Supervisors will discuss and look over the reports and recommendations.

4. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Matt Keating is getting the article ready for the May township newsletter which will include accident avoidance, ticks, foliage and deer resistant plants. Terri Bonenberger attended the meeting and is the contact for website mapping.

5. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Jim reviewed changes made to Long Term Deer Management program. There should be better technology available for 2010. Linda said the ultimate goal is to get to 8-10 deer per square mile. We acknowledge this is an aggressive goal which is hoped to be accomplished by 2018. As we get more data the goal is to achieve 15 per square mile.

6. DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS

It was noted that the Police Department Report does not always correlate to actual deer collisions. Anything on data should be given to the Twp. Staff to be included in

1 packets for meetings. Linda Polishuk reported no updates on grants. We should
2 communicate with people on grants to let them know what Deer Committee is doing.
3 Mark will check with Rick Smith about available grant programs.
4

5 Ellen Sinclair, 217 Lochwood Lane: asked about the community grant programs and
6 asked if residents can write grants. Rick Smith has the most experience with grant
7 writing, along with Joe Gill. It was suggested residents contact Rick or Joe about
8 participation in grant writing.
9

10 There were low numbers in September to December of Deer Vehicle Collisions. It
11 will take a couple of years to get data to see where the spots are that need to be
12 further studied and measures taken to lessen accidents.
13

14 **7. LYME DISEASE**

15 Tom Clapper and Jim McRee have a contact at Chester County Health Department to
16 work with our committee on Lyme disease.
17

18 Update on 4-Posters: Chas Linder reported that all 10 have been deployed. The unit
19 holds 210 lbs. of corn. In addition to deer feeding at the 4-posters, small animals also
20 feed there. There are 10 4-posters out this year. Cameras will again be used to see
21 deer. This is experimental to see if there is a difference in deer feeding at 4-poster
22 stations.
23

24 Sue Bernhard, 220 N. Lockwood: questioned how 4-posters work, and was given an
25 explanation by Chas, Jim and others from the Committee. Sue asked if the township
26 is using only 4-posters. West Chester Council of Government has been notified that
27 the other townships are using the same products, and we have requested that they give
28 ideas from East Goshen to other townships for their use. Only if all townships are
29 using some sort of controls on deer will they be effective.
30

31 John Babiec reported that the 4-posters have proven to be useful in reducing ticks 80-
32 90%. Areas close to 4-posters have been sampled. Dr. Gerard Hertel from the
33 Department of Biology at West Chester University gave us advice at a previous
34 meeting on the effectiveness of the methods Deer Committee is using. As Dr. Hertel
35 previously reported, the science is already there, so a tick survey would not be
36 necessary. Deer population should be reduced to stop ticks. If the 4-posters are
37 maintained the tick population is reduced. It is important to be on track to get to a
38 level to break the disease cycle, and it will reduce the number of people coming down
39 with lyme disease. He encouraged the committee not to spend money to do
40 unnecessary science (already studied). Applications for grants to capture and analyze
41 ticks have been tabled for economic reasons.
42

43 Mark Gordon talked to Rick Smith about how we are finding out about tick
44 management. Deer can retain ticks for 24 hours +/- . Hunters need to take pictures of
45 dead deer to provide samples of ticks still on them. There was discussion on how
46 hunters will provide reports and photos of deer kills. The return rate on cameras and

1 pictures has been low. It was suggested that we encourage hunters to answer specific
2 questions on the reports they turn in to the township/committee about inspecting deer
3 ears for ticks, if any ticks were found and how many. If we had pictures it would tell
4 us if the deer were clean.

5
6 Joe Buonnano, 1606 Herron Lane: said we should get a feel for the 10 square mile
7 area of East Goshen Township so we know what kind of impact is being made. It was
8 again mentioned that a 900ft. radius covers 50 acres. The 10 4-posters should be
9 placed where deer move and the areas more frequented.

10
11 4-Posters are limited to township owned land only. If residents want to put them on
12 private areas in developments or residential areas, they would have to purchase them.

13
14 George Griffin, 1455 Glenbrook Lane: asked about the cost of the product and
15 feeding corn. It costs \$5-600 to purchase bags of corn at \$6.49 per bag, to use for the
16 season. Waterview Farms has purchased one. It can cost thousands of dollars per
17 year to maintain the 4-posters. But there is an 80-90% reduction of deer ticks with
18 the 4-posters in the area. Insurance companies will cover township products, but not
19 those on private residential property. Maintenance includes repairs from deer
20 feeding, small animals gnawing parts of 4-posters, general deterioration and
21 vandalism.

22
23 We will also work with Willistown Township, which could be helpful in showing us
24 where 4-posters are necessary.

25 26 **8. OTHER MATTERS**

27 Resident Tricia Duffield sent an email to the township suggesting that “real” signs be
28 made and put out at hunting sites that could be removed after hunting system. She
29 believes the current laminated signs are too small and are illegible over time.

30
31 Mark said Chuck is working on more appropriate signage. Cost is a big factor. .
32 Metal signage is too expensive and would need to be constantly remade. Mark
33 suggested that laminate signs with lettering, similar to real estate signs, could be
34 inexpensively made and would be large enough for residents to see. Chas said we
35 would need about 100 signs including those at parking areas We could update
36 verbiage, tell the company what is wanted on signs and they will print signs for our
37 approval. They would mark up a model, and bring it in for committee and residents
38 to approve. Mark Gordon will look at the budget, get a quote and present it to the
39 Deer Committee.

40
41 John Babiec noted that we are trying to cooperate as much as possible with residents’
42 requests on all phases of hunting.

43
44 Sue Bernhard asked about tree marking. Chas reported that trees, undergrowth and
45 branches are being marked before foliage grows in. The township marks trees in red
46 using accurate GPS systems, electronic markers to keep away from residential areas.

1 Jim gave the committee members three articles from the *Journal of Wildlife (JWL)* to
2 read and comment upon. One article, the Threat of Vehicle Approach, speaks about
3 using xenon high intensity car headlights and ultra violet lights to make deer perceive
4 an oncoming threat along with sounds. They know what frequency deer's eyes
5 respond to. Consistent high intensity light scared deer away. Although newer cars
6 are now equipped with xenon headlights, older cars would have to be retro-fitted with
7 them, a very expensive procedure.

8
9 Ed Mulka of Jafa Technologies, Mt. Laurel, NJ (www.jafatech.com) gave a
10 presentation in October 2008 on his product "Wildlife Crossing Guard", his
11 company's form of "animal collision avoidance technology" which incorporates the
12 above lighting and sounds. Funding was discussed but nothing has been decided at
13 this point. However, no decision was made on whether or how to proceed with his
14 product.

15
16 John Babiec said some insurance companies will give grants for these types of
17 headlights, but we would have to find out which companies make them available. We
18 should start with the PA Game Commission or insurance companies to get grant
19 monies. Deer Committee is looking for grant money to put warning lights along
20 Paoli Pike. It was suggested that Kathy Anderson from Governor Rendell's office
21 could guide us to the right person to pursue funding.

22
23 Survival/Birth characteristics – there is not a whole lot of information available. How
24 much is a "good" habitat for deer? We need to determine where the density is. An
25 April article in the JWL talks about how often fawns are with mothers or other does.
26 It is important to keep sharing information in articles from *Journal of Wildlife* with
27 committee members.

28
29 Radio tagging is done in Valley Forge Park to see where deer are migrating. It would
30 be a good way to keep track of where deer are moving in surrounding townships, but
31 again is an expensive program.

32 33 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

34 Joe Buonnano asked if any proposed changes to the Deer Committee are or would be
35 available to residents. He was given Mark's draft, and the red-lined working copy of
36 proposed changes which will also be posted on the township website.

37
38 The Board of Supervisors will only want a red-lined copy. Last year's copy, this
39 year's red-lined proposal with an executive summary will be presented to the Board
40 so they can see what we plan to do.

41
42 There was extensive discussion on the length of the hunt, which is September through
43 January per PA Game Commission's guidelines. There are options of restricting the
44 length of the hunt, having shorter hunting hours, and those options are still being
45 worked on. Residents would like shorter hunting hours and hunt length, and asked
46 about sharpshooters. We are looking at a company about the possible use of sharp

1 shooters, and will see if we can get them to bring a presentation about it.
2 Sharpshooting has not been ruled out, we are working on it, as it could cut down the
3 hunting time, but cost must be considered. The cost of for sharpshooting one deer is
4 \$640. There could be potential litigation with sharpshooters in the township, and risk
5 factors are involved. Deer Committee budget is only \$45,000. for the year, not
6 including the cost of current litigation which is an unbudgeted, unallocated expense.
7 John Babiec said it is hard to get information on costs and evaluation on these
8 methods. They were considered in the early part of the Deer Management Program.

9
10 Extensive discussion with attending residents was once again held on police action and
11 changes in proposals for the coming year. Questions about lost and found arrows were
12 asked by residents, citing safety concerns. Changes to the length of the hunt were
13 requested, residents asking for a shorter hunting season. There is no consensus on
14 shortening the length of the hunt. But the Deer committee is considering it, looking at
15 reducing Deer Vehicle collisions as quickly as possible within the next 10 years.
16 Residents felt shorter hunting days and a time frame less than 10 years was highly
17 desirable.

18
19 In the current budget, deer vehicle collisions, lyme disease and tick control are the prime
20 consideration. The budget for 2009 is \$45,000. Mark Gordon will ask for line items for
21 2008 and 2009. The goal is to eradicate the herd. Some surrounding townships are
22 doing some hunting, but others either cannot or don't do as much hunting, leaving East
23 Goshen with large herds of deer to control.

24
25 Joe Buonnano feels hunters are giving their own statistics, were there when they were not
26 scheduled, and failed to show up when they were scheduled. Residents want to find out
27 when and where hunting is taking place. On 5/18/09 the final Deer Committee meeting
28 will put give its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. On 5/19/09 the Board of
29 Supervisors will deliver its recommendations and performance evaluation. At the June
30 date (TBD), the Board of Supervisors will make their recommendations. Residents asked
31 that this information be made available to them.

32 33 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

34 A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

35
36 The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2009.

37
38 Respectfully submitted,

39
40 Barbara Woodin
41 Recording Secretary