

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

The East Goshen Township Deer Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Goshen Township building.

In attendance were: Jim McRee (chairman), members Linda Polishuk, Chuck Matasic and Matt Keating. Also in attendance were Mark Gordon and Marty Shane.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review of the August minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

4. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Jim asked if photos could be used in the Township Newsletter. Mark will check but thinks it is ok, however the Committee will lose space. Matt is working on an article. Jim will give him a progress report.

5. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A. The only zones in Supplee Valley that are closed so far are C & D. Three deer were harvested on opening day – 1 in Supplee Valley and 2 in Bow Tree.

B. Jim welcomed John Morgan and Scott Frederick from the PA Game Commission. There was a round table discussion about the following topics:

1. Controlled Hunts – John explained this is when a zone is over saturated with hunters, i.e., 200 acres with 50 hunters. This is usually done in public parks that are closed for the one-day of the hunt. However, weather conditions play an important part in the success of a one-day hunt. Permits are needed for controlled hunts in State parks. Ridley Creek allows archery all season but only in one area. They have a one-day shotgun hunt. Scott feels the current East Goshen program is more natural with hunters consistently hunting and learning the patterns of the deer.

2. Count – The last infrared flight of East Goshen showed 300 deer in the 10 sq. miles. The goal is 15 deer/sq. mile. The “home” range of deer is considered to be 1 sq. mile. The total number of deer is hard to calculate, so over time we should look at forest restoration. After 5 years with the program, the Township should have another infrared flight done. The program harvested 39 deer last year but we don't have the numbers of other areas, such as, private lands, Hershey's Mill, etc. John said you could compare the numbers you have to the number of successful cards turned in to the State each season.

3. State Program – The State is divided into wildlife units. They try to have people from different occupations on the committees that lay out the plan for deer management for their area. John thinks things are improving around the State.

4. Recreational Hunting – Some don't believe recreational hunting can impact the deer population. John feels our program is more intensive – not recreational. Recreational hunting has to be managed and follow standard regulations.

5. Safety Zone – Scott explained that you can't go within the safety zone to drive deer. This would be breaking the law.

6. Signs – Mark showed a completed sign. Scott explained that these signs have to be “conspicuously posted”. Be aware of what people will observe when they come on the property. If you are approaching an incident, call 911 immediately. Then the Game Commission needs to be contacted since they are the only ones who can write a citation for safety issues. The local police can write a report and give it to the Game Commission officer.

7. Lyme Disease – Controlling the deer population and deer ticks. The smaller stage ticks are the most dangerous in peak time of May & June. East Goshen uses the 4 posters. There are 10 in the township open spaces and 3 in Hershey's Mill; maintenance is high. Neither Chas nor his helper had any ticks on themselves while working in the 4 poster areas. Regarding contraception, there is nothing commercially approved by the government yet. If they do approve something, it will have lots of control and restrictions attached. It will also be expensive to apply it to the deer.

8. Crossbows – Scott said there is no controversy about this, they have been legal for years. All officers get crossbow training. Practice is essential. A hunter in one of the East Goshen groups has a disability and uses a crossbow.

In summary, John Morgan and Scott Frederick were complimentary and favorably impressed with the context of the East Goshen program and data being collected. John was asked specifically if the program was safe and he said yes. John and Scott had no suggestions for necessary additions to be made to the program.

6. DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS

Tom Marsh, the contractor who picks up road kill, only provides a hand written report. Jim McRee types the information into the computer. East Goshen Township staff plots the sites on a map to see where the most collisions occur. This will locate dangerous sections of roads and we may find ways to keep the deer from crossing. There was one collision in August in East Goshen.

7. LYME DISEASE

A. 4 posters were pulled down from several areas. Mold was a big problem this year.

B. The State legislature passed the budget. Money will be released in a few weeks. Linda will follow up on our grant application.

8. ANY OTHER MATTER

A. Mark provided groups contact information, maps, rosters, a sample township tag for the hunters and sample schedule. Jim pointed out on the Bow Tree schedule, if a zone is “closed”, it is closed for the entire season. Mark said B is closed due to improper markings. He will change the wording. Jim suggested leaving it blank with no activity.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Matt moved to adjourn the meeting. Chuck seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary