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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2009**

The East Goshen Township Deer Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Goshen Township building.

In attendance were: Jim McRee (chairman), members Linda Polishuk, Chuck Matasic, Jim Ryland, John Babiec and Matt Keating. Also in attendance was Mark Gordon.

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

The August 17th and September 21st meeting minutes were reviewed and corrected. Linda moved that the minutes of August 17, 2009 and September 21, 2009 be approved as corrected. Chuck seconded the motion. No further discussion or public comment was heard. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jim reported that one opening remains on the committee. Officer elections will be held in December and Jim, having chaired the DMC for the past 2 years, will look to rotate with another interested member. The 2010 budget of \$20-25K + legal expenses being developed; the roadway protection program is still dependent on grant approval. The lawsuit appeal was denied. Jim shared a State Farm article, provided by Al Zuccarello. The Chester County Health Dept. is working with multiple organizations to participate in a lyme program; they are interested in the East Goshen program.

4. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Matt will recap the program in the winter newsletter; article due November 11th. Melissa from the Chester County Health Dept. offered to write an article for the EGT spring newsletter. Matt said Valley Forge just approved a sharp shooting program.

5. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- A. Sixteen deer have been harvested to date; weather may be a factor. If we average 2-3/week throughout the season, we will get to the goal of 36.
- B. All deer were recovered from township open space. Of the 10 sq. miles in the township, 500+ acres are designated open space, with about 6% overall being actual township open space. Open space utilization for the deer program is estimated to be 23% for Bowtree, 5% for Grand Oak, 14% for Supplee and 6% for Wentworth, which calculates to be approximately 12-14% of all space or about 1 day per week.

1 C. There was one (1) unauthorized hunting incident at Grand Oak on 9/23 (3rd
2 full day of hunting program). Jim explained that township Public Works
3 personnel saw someone there until at least 1:30pm. Mixed reports about
4 whether someone was supposed to be there or not led to an investigation. This
5 was an official hunter but the session was not scheduled. This is an important
6 issue for township residents and they have recommended that Rick/Mark issue
7 a warning, with potential to suspend the hunter. Chris Ollis of the hunting
8 group was present to explain the details further.
9

10 Chris explained that Frank asked him about hunting that day and he told him
11 to check with Dan about the AM session. Frank didn't reach Dan and thought
12 it was okay to hunt. After receiving the call from Chas around noon, Chris
13 found out Frank never reached Dan. He said Frank is a good/safe hunter and
14 he was reprimanded. It was very early in the season and because some things
15 have changed from last year, there was a miscommunication/confusion. They
16 have revised their computer system (internal emails now go to both Dan and
17 Chris) to avoid further mistakes and taken other scheduling provisions. Mark
18 said the website is up and all times are current and hunters can confirm
19 through the township office. Chris assures members that Frank is clear on
20 proper scheduling procedures now. Linda said the warning seems sufficient
21 and members agreed a verbal warning and reiteration of times/procedures to
22 all groups is warranted. There were two similar incidents on record last year.
23 Jim will draft the letter to be reviewed/issued by the township/BOS.
24

25 Chris has seen deer in this area but noted that there is a dirt bike area set up in
26 Millcreek (behind the CTDI building) and dogs off leash that are problematic.
27 Mark said the township is working to have it removed and urged Chris to call
28 911 when it happens. Mark will see what he can do to have the open spaces
29 marked with addresses so police will know the location.
30

31 **6. DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

- 32 A. Jim presented his Deer-Vehicle Collision Report for September 2009,
33 showing a downward trend since Nov. '08 (34%). Jim Ryland said it is better
34 to look at numbers not percentages on a monthly basis. Chuck recommended a
35 "numbers session" next month to analyze the figures and draw some concrete
36 conclusions; members agreed.
- 37 B. Jim reported the first injury resulting from a deer collision happened on
38 Greenhill Road on 9/1/09; there have been four police reports for collisions.
39 Jim is also tracking Chester County collision numbers. East Goshen ranks 17th
40 out of 20 townships in the area and accounts for 22% of county collisions (this
41 includes East Goshen and immediately adjacent townships, such as Trediffryn
42 Township which includes Valley Forge). Linda has been plotting collisions on
43 a map. Jim suggested the information could be used to spur surrounding
44 townships to build a partnership with East Goshen, improving our grant
45 application.

- 1 C. Jim said deer pick-ups for October-December 2009 expect to come in around
2 55, down 30% from last year (47:2008 vs. 31:2009). Jim said this is a sign the
3 management and education program are working. Jim proposed they use the
4 deer removal records to plot male/female ratios in the population.
5 D. Linda reported no further activity for the grant application. Linda contacted
6 State Farm about partnering but it is believed they don't want to be tied
7 directly to a hunting program. Chuck said the township project is too small for
8 State Farm or All State to get involved in. Jim Ryland will look into other
9 viable companies.

10
11 **7. LYME DISEASE**

- 12 A. Four posters are currently in the open spaces while the rest have been pulled
13 in for maintenance. The remaining four will come out November-March
14 because tick activity is low and it saves on corn expense.
15 B. An article about tick tubes should be included in the spring newsletter. Tick
16 tubes are \$20/6pk; prices are on the website.

17
18 **8. ANY OTHER MATTER**

- 19 A. Jim shared some Wildlife Management publications with interesting
20 articles/data; they will be kept on file at the township.
21 B. Jim Ryland said no one is monitoring the fawning rate in Chester County. The
22 increased rain equals more food and larger herds.

23
24 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

25 Dale Rhine, 714 Jamestown Way – is attending the meeting with his son for a
26 school project. They live in Clocktower and support the program. He doesn't see
27 the hunters and doesn't see any issues. This particular open space is very marshy
28 and has not issues with the hunting use in this space. He does suffer a lot of shrub
29 damage though and asked the DMC if they address this issue. Jim said they do
30 have a list of "deer resistant plantings" and agreed that underbrush damage and
31 invasive species are a big issue from the deer. Everyone agreed that it requires
32 constant maintenance.

33
34 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

35 The next meeting is scheduled for November 16th. Chuck moved to adjourn the
36 meeting. Jim Ryland seconded the motion. No further discussion or public
37 comment was heard. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

38
39 Respectfully submitted by:

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41
42 Tracie Hill, Recording Secretary