

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2011**

The East Goshen Township Deer Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday May 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Goshen Township building.

In attendance were: Jim McRee (chairman), Linda Polishuk, John Babiec and Matt Keating. Also in attendance were Mark Gordon (Township Zoning Officer), Marty Shane (Township Supervisor), and Bill Casper (Resident representing Lockwood Chase Homeowners Assoc.).

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ruth led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for our troops.

Jim asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda moved to approve the minutes from February 28, 2011. Matt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

D. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

None

E. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1. Mark commented that scheduling is still cumbersome and he doesn't believe all the information that was gathered is needed.

Mr. Casper represented Lockwood Chase was interested in the Township's Deer Program since the sewer treatment plant will be closing and Lockwood will have more open space. Mark pointed out on the map where this open space is located. The Home Owners' Association is in charge of this area and would have to develop their own deer program. Jim explained the method of communicating the hunting schedule to residents via the Township website.

Mr. Casper commented that deer aren't a problem yet but are coming from Imaculatta. Mark said Imaculatta has its own deer program.

2. Review of 2010 – Marty feels the schedule has to be accurate. The report of harvests and ticks is good. He would also like to track the gender this year.

Linda voiced concern that removing the 4-posters will increase the amount of ticks. Jim recalled that in 2009 a Penn State professor reviewed the East Goshen program and felt it is very solid and he didn't recommend doing a tick study.

Mark commented that the Township staff believes the 4-posters were working because, when they did the installation, they found numerous ticks on the staff members. This last year, they had no ticks on them after working on the 4-posters.

Mark is working with homeowners in the north section of the Township to use hunters on their property. Jim mentioned that hunting on private property in East Goshen covers at least as much space as the East Goshen Township open space.

Jim commented that the hunting groups regularly complained about the rigidity of the schedule – no last minute changes. The Bow Tree hunting group has a computer program they use to schedule. Jim suggested posting notices on Facebook. Mark said the challenges with Facebook are viruses and security. Mark said that because the schedules have to be posted on the website, last minute changes can't be made. Marty explained for Mr. Casper that the hunting groups put information into the schedule and the East Goshen staff monitors it to be sure they are doing what they say. Jim feels the staff can say what format and timeframe should be used.

Mark stated that **the deadline** to submit the schedule for the next week has been **changed** from noon on Friday to **noon on Thursday**.

Linda would like to see more hunting in her area – Grand Oak.

Matt feels that people do like to see deer occasionally on their property, but not 40. He feels the program is working well to manage the deer.

The days to hunt in PA last year were 9/14 to 12/2 and 12/26 to 1/28, with 10/20 – 22 the days for seniors and handicapped hunters.

Marty wants the number of deer harvested and the number of hours hunting in each of the 4 areas. Jim feels technique is a factor which impacts the number harvested rather than the hours hunting. More hours don't mean more deer – efficiency does. After discussion, it was agreed that man hours would equal 2 hunting hours if 2 hunters are in a zone hunting for 1 hour.

Matt moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, the 2011-2012 plan which will follow the PA Game Commission dates and the dates normally excluded in the past (11/24-26 and 12/24-1/1). John seconded the motion. The motion was amended as follows: all other rules remain except operational changes that the Township staff would have to make. The motion and amendment passed unanimously.

Linda is not satisfied with the hunting group in her area (Grand Oak). Mark explained that it is a very difficult area to hunt because there is so much public action (ball fields, etc.).

Linda moved to recommend the same four hunting groups as in previous years. Matt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment – Mr. Casper thanked the committee for letting him be a part of the meeting.

The next meeting will be August 15, 2011 with representatives from the hunting groups.

Jim and members of the committee acknowledged the work that the Township staff does to make this program successful.

F. DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS

A. Collisions – The collisions report shows less incidents in East Goshen. Only about 10% of deer collisions are reported to the police, so this report is a better source of data.

G. ANY OTHER MATTER

A. Jim explained that the 501.c.3 Committee was set up to give people the opportunity to make tax deductible contributions to the Township. The Deer Committee has 2 programs that need funding; installation and maintenance of the 4-posters to help fight Lyme Disease and the road protection program, which needs funding for implementation.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

I. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held August 15, 2011.

Linda moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary

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