

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
Goshen Fire Hall, 1320 Park Avenue  
July 22, 2008 – 7:00pm**

**Present:** Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio, Joe McDonough, Don McConathy and Thom Clapper. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Phyllis Marron (Park & Rec), Linda Gordon (Historical Commission), Jim McRee (Planning Commission & DMC), and Township Solicitor Jeff Sommer.

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Marty called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Recording of Meeting**

Marty asked if any resident planned to record the meeting. Resident Abbas Rahbari of 1613 Manley Road said he reserved the right to record and/or transmit the meeting.

**Moment of Silence**

Carmen welcomed the audience to the Goshen Fire Hall and asked for a moment of silence in honor of the men and women serving their country in the armed forces, and their families.

**Opening Remarks**

Marty introduced the Board members, the Township Solicitor, and the Recording Secretary to the audience. He announced that this meeting would serve as a continuation of the July 15 meeting which had to be cut off at 10:30pm. He said the Board was here to listen to those residents wishing to express an opinion about the approved Deer Management Program. The Board would allow the residents to speak, and would respond to the comments at the end of the meeting.

Marty requested everyone to act in a courteous, respectful manner to maintain order. Those wishing to speak would need to come up to the microphone and provide their name and address for the Recording Secretary. Each speaker should try to keep their comments to two minutes or less. Marty said it would be appreciated if those that spoke last time could please allow others to have the chance to speak first. In the order to be fair, comments would be taken row by row.

Marty announced that the deer discussion would have to recess briefly at 8:00pm for a previously scheduled Public Hearing on a Comcast conditional use application, but would resume directly thereafter.

**Public Comments on the Deer Management Program**

*Note from Recording Secretary: The only comments recorded were those made by individuals who a) were recognized by the Chairman, b) came to the microphone, and c) identified themselves.*

*Lynn Grad, 1700 Towne Drive* – Says she has been a schoolteacher for 29 years and is concerned about the safety of children. She urged the Board to reconsider the decision to have the hunt.

*Karen Galese, 440 Beaumont Circle* – Said she is a realtor and a property appraiser with numerous credentials. It is her opinion that residential buyers will avoid East Goshen as a result of the hunt. She read aloud a letter from West Chester real estate attorney Arthur L. Sagnor, III who advised Ms. Galese that East Goshen sellers must disclose the existence of the hunt on the Property Disclosure Statement.

*Steve Jenkinson, 1307 Amstel Way* – Said he and his son have both been involved in auto accidents with deer. He believes there is a significant deer problem in East Goshen and is in favor of the hunt.

*Robert Fanning, 1667 Bow Tree Drive* – Said he spoke with someone from the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors who suggested the deer hunt be disclosed by property sellers.

[At this point a woman with a television camera entered the room and Marty asked her to please identify herself. She stated she was filming for WPVI, Channel 6 Action News.]

*Mitchell Pinheiro, 1634 Eldridge Drive* – Asked why the hunt has to last for 10 years. Why not have it for a shorter period of time and re-evaluate the deer situation after that? He said he is not in favor of the Deer Management Program as it now exists.

*Ron Zeleski, 218 N. Lochwood Lane* - Expressed concern for the safety of children.

*Linda Paul, 1606 Bane Way* – Said that those who are so concerned about disclosing the deer hunt should also disclose that Chester County is a hot spot for Lyme disease. She said the deer population is out of control and something needs to be done. She knows of a girl that was literally split in two in a car accident involving a deer.

*Rose Marie O'Keefe, 219 N. Lochwood Lane* – Expressed concern for the safety of children and said she does not want hunters in her back yard.

*Margaret Dunn, 1331 E. Strasburg Road* – Said she has a special needs child who lacks good judgment and also a curious 11-year-old. She is concerned for their safety.

*Sarah Credeur, 1331 E. Strasburg Road* – Asked what would happen if a wounded deer runs into the safety zone and there are pets around. She is concerned about the safety of pets as well as children.

*Marty Steinetz, 206 N. Lochwood Lane* – Said that of all the driving he does, only 10% is in East Goshen. He said the Board has been avoiding his questions for three meetings now and he demanded answers. He wanted to know why the Deer Management Program could get started because of a petition signed by a few Grand Oak residents, yet a subsequent petition signed by numerous other residents who are opposed to the hunt has been ignored. He asked if the Board is using logic to make their decisions or are they just determined to have a hunt no matter what.

*Marcia Gordon, 3008 Valley Drive* - Read aloud several written questions about the liability insurance for the Township and for the hunters. She asked to get copies of the Declarations pages of the policies for both. She asked if the Township Solicitor would provide her with a letter stating that East Goshen is not legally responsible for anything amiss that happens during the hunt. She also asked to see copies of all the emails and correspondence among the Board members pertaining to the hunt. Marty advised Ms. Gordon that those issues would fall under the Right-To-Know Act and therefore she would need to follow the normal procedure and come into the Township building and submit a written form listing the items she was requesting. The Board would then review her request and respond appropriately.

*Kathy Buonanno, 1606 Herron Lane* – Wanted to know how the Board arrived at the decision to have a hunt, and why the residents were not involved in the process.

*Susan Williams Gay, 1406 Pine Rock Road* – Said she doesn't believe the hunters will follow the rules and that they will hunt in the safety zone. She was in an auto accident with a deer and has had Lyme disease twice. She said she supports contraceptive for the deer but not a hunt.

[At this point a man with a television camera entered the room and Marty asked him to please identify herself. He stated he was filming for NBC 10 news.]

*Ron Luongo, 904 Saratoga Drive* – Said that on the whole, he thinks the Supervisors do an outstanding job of running the Township, but the deer hunt is a mistake and it is a bad mistake. He asked why residents were not notified of the impending hunt the same way they are notified when there is a zoning change, etc. He believes the hunting program will increase the incidence of poaching, not decrease it as the Board claims. He said there are huge liability issues with this hunt, and the rules for the hunters are unenforceable. He asked who will be responsible if a resident gets shot with an arrow. He said if it is true, as some claim, that the DMC members were appointed, that is outrageous. He asked the Board to reconsider the decision to have a hunt, and to reconsider the way they arrived at that decision.

*Kim Smedley, 630 Beaumont Circle* – Asked for a show of hands of how many individuals on the panel were elected officials. (The Supervisors raised their hands). She asked what were they thinking about when they voted on this. She is concerned about the safety of her two young children and other children. She said it's ridiculous that residents are notified about cell phone boxes but not deer hunters. She begged the Board to reconsider the hunt.

*Harry Simonton, 1508 E. Strasburg Road* – Said he is a long-time resident and has never hit a deer because he drives at the speed limit or a little below it. He believes all deer accidents are the result of speeding. He said the Supervisors do a good job but this deer hunt is not right. He asked why the residents weren't included in the decision-making process. He said the Board could have saved everyone, including themselves, a lot of time and aggravation by letting the residents decide this matter by a vote at the beginning of the process. He said he does not think the deer situation is that bad.

*Deborah Ferry, 414 Barker Drive* – Said her property backs up to open space and she has five

children she's concerned about. She wanted to know why the hunt must last 10 years and why it can't be for 1 day a week or 1 day a month instead of 6 days a week. She asked why private land can't be hunted instead of open space. She wondered if all the lawsuits the Township is going to get will raise taxes. She asked if the Township plans to hire more police to handle all the complaint calls they will be getting. She said the Board needs to find a middle ground that everyone can live with.

*John Gaul, 1323 Park Avenue* – Said he has attended most of the DMC meetings and the DMC members have addressed most of the questions and concerns being raised tonight, and done so more than once. He said that most of the questions and concerns were also fully covered in the Township newsletter. He said that for those concerned about poachers, they should know that there are already poachers in East Goshen. He said the hunting groups the Township plans to use are professional, responsible, self-policing groups, not fly-by-night outfits. He said the DMC represents both sides of the debate on the hunting issue. The DMC members have put in hundreds of hours of their own time, with no compensation, to come up with a reasonable plan to get the deer herd under control.

*Skip Chalfant, 1352 Paoli Pike* – Said he sees less deer on Paoli Pike than he used to. He thinks the deer problem is not as bad as the Board says it is.

*Dr. Paul Kogut, 215 N. Lochwood Lane* – Asked why the Board would want to turn open space into State Game Land.

*Margaret Strate, 409 Scofield Lane* – Said she moved here from Florida, where there were pig and turkey hunters shooting game near her property. It made her feel violated and like her privacy was invaded. She does not want anyone in East Goshen to experience the same feeling.

*Senya Isayeff, 1691 Hunters Circle* – Said he has had 2 auto accidents with deer. He has two teenage drivers in the family that he worries will hit deer. He said that nothing is worth the life of a child. He said he lauded and commended both the Supervisors and the DMC members for doing an extraordinary job studying this matter and developing a program.

*Robert Fanning, 1667 Bow Tree Drive* - Asked how many poachers were arrested last year.

*Sophie Kogut (Age 10), 215 N. Lochwood Lane* – Asked the Board what deer have ever done to them. She thinks deer are cute and doesn't want to see any get killed. It's better for deer to get injured in an automobile crash than killed by a hunter.

*Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road* – Said that Senya Isayeff is Chairman of the East Goshen Planning Commission but failed to recognize that fact when he gave his comments. Mr. Rahbari stated that the DMC members were hand-selected by the Board to give them the answer they wanted to hear. He said East Goshen resembles a totalitarian regime, like his birthplace of Iran.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Comcast, 1354 Boot Road – Conditional Use Application**

The Board continued the public hearing to consider approval of the conditional use application of Comcast to install nine commercial communications antennae (satellite dishes) on their property at 1354 Boot Road. Attorney Alyson Zarro was present for Comcast, and said that Comcast has worked out a settlement agreement with the Egans that has been agreed to by all parties.

Don moved to approve the conditional use application of Comcast Cable communications Management LLC to construct nine Commercial Communications Antennae (Antennae) on their property at 1354 Boot Road, (TPN 53-3-1.2A), pursuant to sections 240-19C & 240-31 of the East Goshen Township Code with the following conditions:

1. Comcast shall install a maximum of nine receive-only Antennae in accordance with site plan prepared by Chester Valley Engineers - dated 5/23/08, no revision, and the landscape plan by Chester Valley Engineers - dated 5/30/08, last revised 6/27/08.
2. All landscaping depicted on the aforesaid plans shall be installed prior to the Antennae being placed in operation, with the exception that the barberrys depicted to be relocated shall be replaced with non-invasive native plants and that the two missing shade trees referenced in the Township Engineer's letter of July 15 shall be planted along Wilson Drive to provide additional landscape screening.
3. All new landscaping depicted on the aforesaid plans shall be maintained (i.e. if one of the plants dies, it shall be replaced, with a new plant meeting the original specifications, within ninety (90) days). This condition shall be in effect for as long as the Antennae are in operation.
4. The Antennae shall be painted a neutral color.
5. Comcast shall submit the structural calculations required by Section 240-31C3(h)(2)[n] with the building permit application for the Antennae.
6. The applicant shall not install any additional antennas, tower(s) or microwave dishes without first obtaining conditional use approval from the Township.
7. The applicant shall conform to all requirements of the East Goshen Township Code.

Joe seconded the motion. Ms. Zarro indicated that Comcast agreed to the conditions. The Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

A court reporter was present and will provide a complete transcript of the proceedings.

### **Introduction of Bill Keslick**

Carmen introduced Bill Keslick, President of the Goshen Fire Company and a lifelong East Goshen resident. Marty noted that Bill also serves as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator.

### **Public Comments on the Deer Management Program (Resumed)**

*Robert Corcoran, 1628 Eldridge Drive* – Said that he respects everyone's perspective on the deer issue. He thanked the Supervisors for serving the Township and stated they have a thankless job. He thanked Marty for accepting his phone call and taking the time to speak with him about the deer hunt and for telling him that the automated calls about the fireworks were used to test the Reverse 9-1-1 system.

Mr. Corcoran said he is personally opposed to the deer hunt because he has two children under 5. He moved here from California as a quality of life decision, and chose to live in East Goshen. He then made remarks about the disclosure form for property sellers and the ineffectiveness of using deer-resistant plantings in his yard. He wondered why the test Reverse 9-1-1 calls could not have had a message about the deer hunt instead of the fireworks. He expressed opposition to the duration of the hunt and the location of the hunt near residential areas.

Mr. Corcoran said a WEGO police officer told him they do not have any jurisdiction over the open space, and won't come if a resident calls about a hunter situation if it's in the open space. Mr. Corcoran asked if the police won't protect the residents, whose job is it. He asked if the liability stops with the Township or does it stop with the hunting group. He said that according to his insurance agent and his attorney (William Mitman, Jr. of 111 South Church Street in West Chester), he as the property owner is liable if someone is injured on his property as a result of the hunt. He is also concerned about defining the property boundaries.

Mr. Corcoran said the hunt is probably 99.9% safe but the small risk is not worth the life of his children. He then mentioned that he is concerned about Lyme disease too. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

*Elizabeth Anderson, 1607 Margo Lane* – Said that she concurred with Mr. Corcoran's statements. Wanted to know the status of the \$10K check for the contraceptive research project. She provided printouts of information on auto accidents involving deer and Lyme disease to the Board. She said that deer are not the main carriers of deer ticks but birds and mice are. She cited studies done in NJ and MD. She stated that auto accidents involving deer increase during hunting season.

*Carol Navarro, 201 N. Chester Road* – Said she concurred with Ms. Anderson's comments. She stated that she has spoken with the CDC, the State Health Department and someone from Cornell University about the deer issue. She had a very lengthy conversation last week with Officer Fredericks from the Game Commission. She said she really appreciated his willingness to speak to her at such length and stated that he is balanced and honest. Ms. Navarro stated that since she sees wild raspberries, hosta plants, and daylilies in the Township, there is no deer problem because if there was, the deer would have eaten those plants. She stated that there are some hunters in the professional groups who are good people but they are not drug tested or subjected

to a criminal background check. She said residents seem to be most concerned about arrows flying around but they should be more concerned about startled deer running around. Ms. Navarro stated that she does not agree with any of the information contained in the DMC report.

**Response by Chairman Marty Shane**

Marty stated that at this point he would like to respond to the comments made by residents, and he asked that no interruptions be made.

Marty stated that the Supervisors are as concerned about the safety of residents as much as anyone else. The DMC was charged to consider safety as their first priority when developing their program. The Board would not have approved anything they felt was unsafe.

In response to some comments made by Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Marty said there are several reasons more deer are killed by auto accidents in autumn than at any other time of year; it is not solely due to hunting.

In response to comments made by Mr. Corcoran about police not being responsible for the open spaces, Marty said the police are responsible for the entire Township, and he would have police commissioner Thom Clapper get back to him on this issue.

In response to comments made last week by Debbie Fetscher that the police refuse to do anything about open drug dealing going on in her neighborhood, Marty reported that the police records were checked going back three years and there is no record of any complaints from Ms. Fetscher regarding drug activity. He said Dr. Clapper would address that issue later in the evening.

In response to complaints that the Supervisors are doing a poor job communicating with residents, Marty said that Supervisor Battavio is currently researching communication options for the Township and is doing a cost/benefit analysis of the various options. He will have a report for the Board in September. Marty stated that Reverse 9-1-1 is not adequate for a mass phone call to every resident. Only 25 phone lines are available for the service and there are too many residents for this method to be effective and timely. Marty stated that the DMC meets at least once every month and the Supervisors meet four times per month. The times are posted on the website and on the notice boards, and the agendas are available ahead of time on the web or from the Township office. Residents not sure of meeting times are always welcome to call the Township to find out the meeting schedule. They can also call the Township to find out if deer are going to be on the agenda. In addition, the Township publishes four newsletters a year that are mailed to all residents. The newsletters have had numerous articles about the deer issue, and the information is also available on the Township website. Furthermore, there have been articles in the *Daily Local News* and the *Philadelphia Enquirer*. Marty said the Board feels the combination of all these means of communication have been adequate, and there is nothing more the Township can do to notify residents about the deer issue. In response to comments that no one reads the newsletter, Marty said the Board members and Township staff get frequent compliments on the quality of the newsletter, and it has even won an award. Furthermore, many of the Park & Rec activities are oversubscribed, so obviously there are some residents who do

read the newsletter. Marty reiterated that the Township is doing the best it can to communicate with residents.

In response to complaints that the Township should have sought resident input on this issue, Marty stated that the Township could not put the deer issue on a referendum because it is not permitted under Pennsylvania Municipal Code. The Board considered conducting a statistically valid survey of residents on the deer issue but doing so would have cost \$20K-\$30K and the Board opted not to use taxpayer funds in this manner.

Marty said the Board members are elected to represent the residents, and they serve for six-year terms. In response to comments that the Board would see results of resident displeasure with their performance at the next election cycle, Marty noted that the Board members get very little negative feedback on the how the Township is run, but if it is true that most residents are displeased with the Board, democracy will win out in the election process.

In response to comments that the DMC members were appointed, Marty noted that the vacancies on the DMC were advertised, and candidates were interviewed to make sure the committee represented a cross-section of the Township. There were more applications to serve on the committee than there were seats, so not everyone who applied could be selected. This was not the result of any bias. The DMC was charged first of all with determining if there are too many deer in East Goshen. They determined that there are too many deer. There are not so many yet that the herd is competing for food and is unhealthy, but if nothing is done the deer population will double in the next 10 years and at that point it will become unhealthy. Marty said the DMC has done a fabulous job completing the charge they were given. Their Chairman Jim McRee has spent an enormous amount of his own time on this issue. Marty noted that the Supervisors are the ones that gave the DMC their charge, and therefore the Board is the body that is accountable for the Deer Management Program, not the DMC.

As a result of the work done by the DMC, it was determined that the only viable option to the Township for controlling the deer herd is to have a hunt. The contraceptives GonaCon™ and PZP are not commercially available at this time. GonaCon™ will not be available until next year, and then it will only be labeled for restricted use only. It will not be available for use on a free-ranging herd, but only as part of a contained research project under the close supervision and monitoring of a veterinarian. Furthermore, it will not be used for reducing a deer herd, but only to maintain an existing herd size. Marty stated that despite what Dr. Ferrater-Mora said during the last meeting, she admitted to him afterwards that he was right. Marty stated that he has documentation from the federal government on the contraceptive issue if anyone wishes to see it. He suggested that anyone doubting him should call the Department of Agriculture.

In response to complaints that the hunting program is not safe, Marty stated that the Township's program complies with the State game regulations at a minimum and in many cases goes way beyond that.

Marty stated that the program would involve 15 treestands spread out over 220 acres of open space, which equates to one treestand per 15 acres. Most residents will not be affected. Not every open space is going to be hunted every day. The hunting schedule will be posted on the



website. Residents without a computer can call the Township office for the schedule. The hunters will not be walking through the woods shooting at deer. They will only be hunting from their treestands, and they will only be shooting arrows downward. If they miss, the arrow will go into the ground. The hunters will be shooting in the open space. They will not be aiming their arrows into residential properties. Marty said that most deer die within 100 yards of where they are shot, and many of those die within 40 yards of where they are shot. Hunters will need to get permission of a property owner to go onto their property and retrieve a dead deer, should that situation occur.

Marty suggested that residents concerned about the character and background of the hunters should make an effort to get to know them on a personal basis. Residents can contact the DMC for more information. The hunters are professionals, and they will be donating venison to food banks.

Marty said that the DMC will probably be tweaking its program in response to feedback from residents and making the minimum hunting age 18 years. In addition, all hunters will need to have at least two years of hunting experience and must have killed at least one deer.

In response to complaints about poachers, Marty said the Township was told by the hunters themselves that having them around will most likely reduce the number of poachers.

Marty reiterated that the Township is doing everything possible to protect children and make the hunt as safe as possible. He cited statistics showing that from 1999-2006 there was only one reported hunting injury in the entire state of Pennsylvania. The hunting groups that will be used in East Goshen have no Game Commission violations. Marty noted that children are more likely to contract Lyme disease or be involved in an automobile accident with deer than to be injured as a result of the hunt. Also, bowhunting is the safest form of hunting.

In response to questions as to why have a 10-year hunt, Marty said it will take that long to reduce the herd from 350 deer to 150 deer, the optimum number. Once that number is reached the Township will concentrate on maintaining that number.

Marty said that no other local Townships are hunting their open space because their Boards don't want to go through the pain of the approval process. Marty stated that the East Goshen Supervisors are convinced they are doing the right thing for residents in having this hunt.

Marty stated that the next steps in the process will be as follows:

1. The Board must approve an ordinance amendment allowing deer hunting on the open space. A public hearing will be scheduled shortly for this purpose. The public is invited to attend and to put their opinion on the record. All comments will be transcribed verbatim by a court reporter.
2. The Board must adopt a resolution to approve and implement the Deer Management Program as revised.

3. The Board will consider suggestions from the DMC regarding ways to improve the safety of the program.

The Board agreed to direct the Township Solicitor to draft the ordinance amendment and to advertise the hearing.

Marty said that in regard to complaints about the cover of the DMC report, another cover will be used in future.

Marty stated that the DMC report does not only address hunting, but also has a Lyme disease reduction aspect and a traffic safety aspect.

Marty said the Board understands there are folks who would not approve a hunt no matter how bad the deer situation is, and that nothing will change that.

Marty suggested that residents concerned about this topic start by reading the current DMC report as it exists today and make any suggestions they feel will improve the safety of the hunting program. He again suggested that residents concerned about the hunters should contact the DMC for information on how to be in touch with the hunting groups to get to know them.

Marty noted that the DMC held 17 meetings, all of which were advertised on the website, on the notice boards and in the newsletter. Any member of the public that was concerned was welcome to attend. In addition, the DMC currently has some openings so anyone interested in serving should apply for a spot.

#### **Public Comments on the Deer Management Program (Continued)**

*Karen Galese, 440 Beaumont Circle* – Said she attended 10 of the DMC meetings but quit going in frustration over how poorly the DMC treated residents who expressed opposition to the hunt.

*Marty Steinetz, 206 N. Lochwood Lane* – Asked whom residents should call for issues involving hunters. Marty said residents should call the police or the Game Commission. Mr. Steinetz asked if the Township could guarantee that the hunters are not criminals or sex offenders. Marty said he did not know. Marty then suggested that if anyone is suspicious of someone, they should call the police. He noted that the professional hunters will be carrying East Goshen ID. He also suggested that residents contact the presidents of the hunting groups who will be hunting their particular area if they have concerns.

*Lynn Grad, 1700 Towne Drive* – Asked how the killed deer will be removed from the open space. Will the hunters drag the deer through her yard? Marty said no, they will use the designated entrances/exits to the open space. Ms. Grad said that since the Public Works crew drives their tractors through her yard, she assumed the hunters would have to take the same route in and out of the open space. Marty advised Ms. Grad that if she had complaints about the Public Works Department she should speak offline with Rick Smith, as that is a separate issue. Ms. Grad then asked if the Board would “give consideration” to people’s backyards. Marty said yes.

*John Fetscher, 229 Cheshire Circle* – Objected to a statement made earlier by Marty that there is no record that his wife called police to report drug activity in their neighborhood. He told Marty the Township received incorrect information from the police. Mr. Fetscher then wondered why the DMC had to spend so much time researching the deer issue when the residents were able to come up with all the facts and figures in a short amount of time. He speculated that perhaps the DMC really spent its time watching ball games. Marty invited Mr. Fetscher to attend a DMC meeting to review all the information they have compiled. Marty then stated that the Board members have spoken with many residents in favor of a hunt, but it's only natural that those who are opposed to the program would attend the meeting. Mr. Fetscher then stated that the Board was dodging every question posed to them and as a result residents were leaving the meeting in frustration.

Carmen said he was getting irritated with being accused of something when no resident has asked him directly for his opinion. He stated that different views are represented on the Board, and that not everyone on the Board is necessarily in favor of everything about the Deer Management Program in its present state.

*Sarah Credeur, 1331 E. Strasburg Road* – Stated that she is against the Deer Management Program. She then stated that members of the audience who seem so excited to vote against the Supervisors next election should consider that last time no one ran opposed to them.

*Robert Fanning, 1667 Bow Tree Drive* – Asked how many poachers were arrested last year. Don stated that poachers are very difficult to capture. Mr. Fanning then asked how many Supervisors have property that backs up to the open space. No one raised their hand.

*Elizabeth Anderson, 1607 Margo Lane* – Disagreed with Marty's statements about the availability and application of deer contraceptive. Marty advised her to speak with the state biologist that he talked to at length. Marty then stated he would append to the minutes a copy of the information he received from the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Anderson made a number of other comments disagreeing with Marty and then she suggested that everyone go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in "deer contraceptive" to view a video of Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick who is an expert on this issue.

*Ron Zeleski, 218 N. Lochwood Lane* – Stated that he is opposed to the program. He then asked that if the next United States President orders the Township to stop the hunt, would East Goshen comply. Marty stated that if the President asked, East Goshen would comply.

### **Remarks by the Board**

Carmen stated that since he would be absent from the next meeting, he would like the Board to revisit a few issues in his absence. He would like the Board to reconsider having a 10-year hunt. He would also like the Board to reconsider spending the money to conduct a statistically valid survey of the residents on the issue of the deer hunt. He would also like the Board to reconsider the size of the open space being used in the hunt.

Joe stated that he would like to revisit the opt-out option.

Don announced that the Board would plan to research the liability issue more carefully to answer the audience questions on this issue more completely at the next meeting. Marty noted that in case of an incident, the liability would lie with the hunter, not the property owner.

**Public Comments on the Deer Management Program (Continued)**

*Rose Marie O'Keefe, 219 N. Lochwood Lane* – Stated that she is concerned hunters will come onto her property.

**Bills**

Current invoices were reviewed.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for July 22, 2008:

	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUND		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 0.00	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 48,236.00	
LST	\$ 1,000.00	Accounts Payable \$ 31,014.70
Transfer Tax	\$ 85,088.00	Debt Service \$ 0.00
Codes, Park & Rec, Etc.	\$ 9,575.00	Payroll \$ 45,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 143,899.00</b>	<b>Total Expenditures \$ 76,014.70</b>
Zoning Hearing Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 19,927.35
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 81,299.99	\$ 12,864.41
Refuse	\$ 57,713.67	\$ 0.00
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, and the receipts, and to approve the expenditures just reviewed. Carmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence & Reports of Interest**

Marty acknowledged the following items from last week that could not be mentioned during the July 15 meeting due to time constraints:

- E-mails and letters from 54 residents (39 households) opposed to the deer hunt.
- E-mails and letters from 33 residents (31 households) in favor of deer hunt.
- Pennoni's Act 14 notification for water quality Management Permit application for renewal at Green Hill.
- E-mail from residents Gary and Paula Moore thanking the township for the wonderful Fourth of July celebration.
- Fire Marshal's and Goshen Fire Company reports for June 2008.
- Director of Public Works, Mark Miller's June Monthly report.

**Sexual Harassment Policy**

The Board reviewed the revised draft policy and made some additional changes. Rick will prepare a revised draft for review.

**Relocation of YMCA Sign**

The Board members discussed the YMCA's request to relocate their sign, and everyone was fine with it.

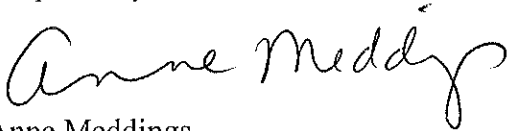
**Vegetation Along Reservoir Road**

Rick reported that the majority of Reservoir Road residents surveyed were in favor of cutting the vegetation that has been allowed to grow unchecked. Therefore, the vegetation will be mowed. Several pro-mowing residents were present in the audience and applauded this decision. The Board briefly discussed Carmen's suggestion of installing some low netting to help prevent geese from walking in the roadway, but agreed not to install netting at this time.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Meddings  
Recording Secretary

Attachment (1)

Subj: **FYI: COMMUNITY REQUEST - East Goshen Township Deer Mgmt Committee (GonaCon)**  
Date: 7/16/2008 7:18:36 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

----- Forwarded by James McRee/IT/VGI on 07/16/2008 07:17 AM -----

Gail.M.Keirn@a  
phis.usda.gov

To

07/15/2008  
02:22 PM

cc

Subject

Re: COMMUNITY REQUEST - East  
Goshen Township Deer Mgmt  
Committee (GonaCon)

Jim,

I'm glad you found the GonaCon information useful. Unfortunately, I do not have as much detailed information for PZP, but I'll share what I know.

NWRC used to work with PZP (commercial name Spay-Vac) up until 2000 when GonaCon started to show more promise. Also, the company that manufactured SpayVac had no interest in its registration. Spay-Vac worked very well on deer as a one shot vaccine, but, as you found out through the EPA, Spay-Vac is not currently being considered for registration at this time.

The two main benefits of using GonaCon versus Spay-Vac include:

1. GonaCon prevents eggs from being released from the ovaries, thereby eliminating estrus and some undesirable behaviors (e.g. bucks chasing does across roads). Spay-Vac just "coats" the eggs and prevents fertilization. Animals still go through estrus or "heat" and exhibit sexual behavior, such as chasing, fighting, scent-marking, etc. Deer that are vaccinated with Spay-Vac repeat their estrus cycles and maintain an extended period of rut. By making animals go into an asexual state, GonaCon eliminates these potentially undesirable behaviors. This is important in areas back East where high populations of deer are living in urban and suburban habitats.
2. GonaCon has a much broader application than Spay-Vac. GonaCon has been successfully tested on deer, elk, horses, feral cats and dogs, feral hogs, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and bison. Spay-Vac has been used successfully on deer and horses, but it does not work on feral dogs and cats.

NWRC scientists note that GonaCon is most effective at maintaining a

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specific population density, not at reducing overall populations. The main reason is time. Using a contraceptive to reduce deer populations and thus reduce damage (i.e., foraging, car collisions) would take many, many years. Often, it is important to reduce the damage quickly. Deer can live as long as 10-15 years (often longer if they are not breeding). As I mentioned before, scientists recommend reducing/culling the herd first, then using contraceptives to help maintain it.

If you would like to discuss this more with one of our scientists, please let me know and I can arrange a time.

Regards,  
Gail

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Gail Keirn  
~~Public Affairs Specialist~~

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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4101 LaPorte Avenue  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154

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gail.m.keirn@aphis.usda.gov

07/14/2008 05:32 AM

To  
Gail.M.Keirn@aphis.usda.gov  
cc

Subject  
Re: COMMUNITY REQUEST - East Goshen  
Township Deer Mgmt Committee (GonaCon)

Gail,

Thank you for your response below. It is very thorough and answered all of my questions about GonaCon.

Do you have the same type of information on PZP? PZP appears to be the other major contender with GonaCon for deer contraception. From what I've read, it is a similar drug to GonaCon, but with some additional side

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affects. I had written to the EPA about it and the person told me they did not have any applications on file for PZP studies. (I appreciate the very thorough information on GonaCon - I don't need that much information about PZP if it is very similar and in the same status.)

Our township (East Goshen, Chester County, PA) is 10 square miles of primarily suburban residential landscape. We have several open spaces ranging from 15 - 80 acres. Our deer are free-roaming and generally scattered throughout the township. We performed an overhead thermographic scan to count our deer in March 2007 and found a minimum of 30 per square mile. We are initiating an archery program this fall with the goal of reducing the herd density to 15 per square mile over the next 10 years.

It appears from your note that GonaCon, after receiving the registration, could help us in reducing the deer herd density, but would primarily be used to maintain the density at about 15 per square mile. Is that an accurate understanding? I'm not clear on whether it could help us in the "reduction" phase of our program or if it could be used as a stand-alone tool in the "maintenance" phase.

Some of our residents have expressed strong reservations about archery hunting. We would love to have an effective and cost efficient alternative.

thanks, Jim.

From: Gail.M.Keirn@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Gail.M.Keirn@aphis.usda.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 12:10 PM  
To:  
Subject: COMMUNITY REQUEST - East Goshen Township Deer Mgmt Committee (GonaCon)

Dear Chairman McRee,

Dr. Lowell Miller forwarded your email to me and asked me to respond.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). As part of the Wildlife Services (WS) program, our mission is to help resolve conflicts between people and wildlife through the development of effective, selective, and acceptable methods, tools and techniques.

Please find attached the latest USDA factsheet on GonaCon. It answers many of the common questions regarding this new wildlife contraceptive.

As you may know, overabundant wildlife species, such as white-tailed deer, have the potential to adversely affect wildlife habitats and residential landscapes and pose risks to human health and safety. In locations or situations where traditional wildlife management methods, such as hunting, are not feasible, immunocontraceptive tools might play an important role.

For the past 11 years, scientists at the NWRC have been working to develop a single-shot, multi-year contraceptive agent for deer. NWRC research has resulted in the development of GonaCon™, a new gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) immunocontraceptive vaccine. GonaCon™ can successfully keep female deer infertile for up to 5 years, however, infertility is reduced over time as antibody levels to the vaccine decline. Multiple injections increase the longevity of the vaccine's effect.

Data from field studies in New Jersey and Maryland showed the vaccine to be

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67% and 88% effective the first year, respectively. Effectiveness in the second year was 48% and 47%, respectively. Given the inherent natural variability within wildlife populations, NWRC scientists do not expect the vaccine to be 100% effective in all deer. Results from these studies will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the registration process for GonaCon™. We are also working with collaborators on field studies in California (fallow deer) and Colorado (elk, prairie dogs). The vaccine has been successfully tested on other species, such as horses, feral cats and dogs, feral hogs, ground squirrels, and bison.

GonaCon™ is not yet commercially available. USDA-APHIS hopes to submit data to support a registration for use of GonaCon™ in managing white-tailed deer populations soon, with registration being granted within one year following submission. NWRC scientists anticipate that GonaCon™ will be registered by the EPA as a "Restricted Use" product, probably for use by state or federal wildlife or natural resource management personnel or persons working under their authority. GonaCon™ users will also need to follow state authorization processes.

GonaCon is currently authorized only for experimental use in research studies that are designed to provide data that would support full registration of the vaccine with the EPA. At this time, NWRC is not planning any additional research studies. Instead, we are focused on finalizing the registration package.

GonaCon™ will not replace other management tools and its use alone cannot rapidly reduce overabundant deer populations to healthy levels. Instead, we consider GonaCon™ a new tool that could be used in conjunction with other wildlife management methods, particularly in residential areas and suburban parks where traditional management methods, such as regulated sport hunting, are not always an option. In the Maryland field study, for example, the deer herd was culled and then contraception was implemented to maintain a specified population level. As with any new tool, actual on-the-ground use and experimentation with application methods by management agencies must be conducted to establish the efficacy and practicality of the vaccine. Current field studies are only one step in the scientific process of testing, making adjustments based on test results, and testing again.

Again, we appreciate your interest and welcome any additional questions or comments.

Thank you,  
Gail Keirn

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Gail Keirn  
Public Affairs Specialist

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Friday, August 01, 2008 AOL: EMShane

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----- Forwarded by Gail M Keirn/CO/APHIS/USDA on 07/08/2008 09:52 AM -----

----- Forwarded by Lowell A Miller/CO/APHIS/USDA on 07/08/2008 08:46 AM -----

"James Mc Ree"

07/07/2008 06:26 PM

To  
<lowell.a.miller@aphis.usda.gov>  
cc

Subject  
Information about PZP and  
GonaCon deer contraception

Dr. Miller,

I am the chairman of East Goshen Township's Deer Management Committee in Chester County, PA. We have just begun to implement a deer management program based on 4 initiatives: communication/education, tick reduction to mitigate Lyme disease risk, deer-vehicle collision risk mitigation, and deer herd reduction. I am writing to you to learn more about the deer contraception research APHIS and the National Wildlife Research Center are leading.

Some of our residents have informed us that PZP and GonaCon are deer contraceptive drugs that are available for the township to use to control the growth of our deer herd. My understanding of their availability after reading what I can find on the Internet is that they are available only within the confines of a rigidly controlled research study. Can you clarify the status of these drugs and their availability for use by the township? Please describe a "rigidly controlled research study" so we know what we are getting ourselves into if we decide to pursue this course of action.

Can you provide an update on how the research is going and when a decision might be made to make the drugs readily available for use if they are not

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currently available?

Feel free to refer me to web pages if this information is readily available.

Sincerely,

James Mc Ree  
Chairman – East Goshen Township Deer Management Committee

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