

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
GOSHEN FIRE HOUSE
June 9, 2009 – 7:00pm
Final Approved Minutes**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio, Joe McDonough, Don McConathy and Thom Clapper. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Assistant Township Manager Joe Gill, Jim McRee (Deer Management Committee), Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission), and Senya Isayeff (Planning Commission).

WORKSHOP

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Marty Shane called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence

Carmen called for a moment of silence to honor the men and women serving their country in the armed forces, and their families.

Recording of Meeting

Resident Abbas Rahbari of 1613 Manley Road said he reserved the right to record and “transmit” the meeting because he does not trust the Township to provide accurate minutes.

Minutes

The draft minutes of May 28 were reviewed and corrected. Don moved to approve the minutes of May 28 as corrected. Carmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The minutes of June 2 were tabled and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Bills

The Treasurer’s Report and Expenditure Register Report were reviewed. Don would like the staff to provide a list of expenses related to the alarm system for the Township building. To answer Don’s question from the prior meeting, Joe Gill reported there are multiple vendor numbers for Verizon as a way to ensure payments are posted properly. Don said he would speak to Deb Beury offline about this matter, and said he also noticed multiple vendor numbers for PECO and Aqua.

Treasurer’s Report & Expenditure Register Report

The Treasurer’s Report for June 4, 2009:

	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUND		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 78,569.79	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 474,355.64	Accounts Payable \$ 9,762.27
LST	\$ 29,755.31	Electronic Payments \$ 0.00
Transfer Tax	\$ 0.00	Debt Service \$ 25,889.40
Codes, Park & Rec (2009)	\$ 70,333.20	Payroll \$ 40,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 653,013.94	Total Expenditures \$ 75,651.67
State Fund	\$ 253.44	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 1,307.44	\$ 121,997.00
Transportation Fund	\$ 243.37	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 25,992.61	\$ 21,812.26
Refuse	\$ 7,591.88	\$ 73,691.18
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and Expenditure Register Report, both dated June 4, as recommended by the Treasurer, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Carmen seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Complimented the Board for finally providing the entire Expenditure Register for public review at each meeting after he has been asking for this for years.

There was no further public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Deer Management Program – 2008 Recap & Recommendations for 2009

Jim McRee, Chairman of the Deer Management Committee (DMC), gave a recap of the 2008 Deer Management Program and provided recommendations for the 2009 program. A copy of his presentation is appended to these minutes.

Marty added that 24 deer were harvested from the Ashbridge Preserve, and 9 from Al Tegler’s property. He also noted that construction of the new sewer plant contributed to deer movement and impacted the 2008 harvest.

Thom asked Jim why deer driving is not a part of the program. Jim said it forces deer to move, which is not a good idea for archery hunting. Thom asked why baiting is not part of the program, and Jim said it is.

Don asked if there is any way to get information on the spread of the deer harvest over the hunting season. Jim said he has the dates of each kill but has not made a chart of the data. Don asked if more deer were killed in the mornings or in the afternoons, and Jim said he did not recall offhand.

Public Comment: Howard Jones, 1048 Kennett Way – Asked if the DMC should be including domestic animals (pets) in the count of cases of Lyme disease. He also noted that ticks carry other diseases besides Lyme. Jim said the DMC’s focus is only on Lyme disease, and said they decided not to pursue a tick study based on information from Dr. Gerard Hertel of West Chester University. Marty said he is not sure anyone keeps a registry of pets with Lyme disease and added that it is known to be under-reported in humans so the same is most likely true with pets.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Stated that Jim McRee is not qualified to run the Deer Management Program, although he is educated and competent as an IT person. He said Jim has made assertions that are his own opinion and not based on scientific fact. The DMC is a fraud perpetrated by the Township. The DMC members are all hand-picked by the Supervisors. Mr. Rahbari disputed Jim’s remark of there being no significant safety violations associated with the program. On the contrary, he said he has heard of significant safety violations but they were hushed up because the hunters are in cahoots with the Township and the police.

Public Comment: Howard Jones, 1048 Kennett Way – Said he supports Jim McRee in the work he has done with the DMC. Mr. Jones said he himself was a biology major, and he thinks Jim has done “a heck of a job” sifting through all the scientific data and studies and presenting the information to the Board. Marty said Jim McRee has spent untold hours, starting from scratch, to become what he would call an expert on deer management. Jim has become a wealth of information on this topic, and outside sources are coming to him for advice. Marty said Jim did not posit anything in his presentation this evening that was not factual information gleaned directly from the data. Marty said he and the rest of the Board have the utmost confidence in Jim and the rest of the DMC. He added that positions on the DMC are open to the public. Openings are posted in the newsletter and on the webpage, and anyone is welcome to apply.

Public Comment: Bill Egan, 1422 Mill Creek Drive – Said he learned at the May 28 financial meeting that that the 2008 actual cost for the deer program was \$55,235 while the budgeted amount was only \$25K. He asked if the Township can really afford to spend this kind of money on this program, and is there an end in sight. Marty and Don noted that legal fees alone related to the Deer Management Program were \$18K in 2008 and \$12K thus far for 2009. Marty said other than the legal fees there will be very little expense involved in the program going forward since everything is all set up and in place. The most expensive item is the corn for the 4-post feeders where the deer are treated with a tickicide.

Public Comment: Art Polishuk, 1424 Grand Oak Lane – Said some of the cost for the tick reduction aspect of the program was incurred when buying the 4-post feeders, which Marty confirmed.

Public Comment: Jack Dempsey, 707 Jamestown Way - Had a question about the dates of the hunting program. He then asked what criteria the Board use for selecting someone for the DMC. Marty said there is no criteria; the only requirement is having an interest in the issue. Marty said the Board initially tried to assemble a group of people with divergent views on the issue, to be balanced. However, now the Board accepts candidates based on interest, no different from any other ABC. Mr. Dempsey wanted to know the size of the DMC. Marty said there are 7 members on the board. Originally it had 9 members but the Township had difficulty keeping all

9 positions filled. There has been very little interest for new openings. Mr. Dempsey then asked what Jim's background is that qualifies him to lead the DMC. Marty said he would let Jim answer. Jim said he is a computer person who has learned about the deer issue by doing extensive reading and by speaking with experts on the topic. He added that the DMC's work has garnered positive feedback from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Fish & Wildlife Service. Mr. Dempsey asked if the Board has requested the Township solicitor to provide them with an estimate of future legal fees related to the deer program. Marty said the Board has requested that information. Mr. Dempsey then had questions about the current lawsuits against the Township in regard to the deer program. Marty said there is currently one case in federal court which is on hold, another case in State Commonwealth Court, and one in the local Common Pleas Court.

Public Comment: Ron Zeleski, 28 N. Lochwood Lane (speaking through an interpreter) – Told Jim McRee that the report he presented was lacking statistical information about Lyme disease in the Township and also lacking anything about "people safety." Jim said Lyme disease is tracked by the CDC at the county level, and the data is not broken down to the township level. Unfortunately many physicians do not report cases of Lyme disease to the CDC for various reasons. Jim said if he had good information on Lyme disease in East Goshen he would be certain to report it. Mr. Zeleski then stated there are 8 cases of Lyme disease in Chester County that he has counted. Jim said he believes the actual number to be much higher, as Chester County is the county with the second-highest rate of Lyme disease in the state, and Pennsylvania is a state with one of the highest rates of Lyme disease in the country. Don suggested Jim might want to add a slide about the tick program to his presentation.

Public Comment: Jack Dempsey, 707 Jamestown Way – Said if Lyme disease is so prevalent, the data should be available at the Township level. He wanted to know what the DMC bases its tick program on without knowing the statistics for East Goshen. Jim reiterated that the CDC only tracks Lyme at the county level and said he requested information for East Goshen but was told it is not available. Marty then told Mr. Dempsey the original charge of the DMC and gave him a brief history of the program.

Public Comment: Marcia Gordon, 3008 Valley Drive – Asked if the \$55K for the deer program includes the helicopter census. Don said no, the helicopter census was done in 2007 and is not a recurring expense.

Public Comment: Andy Brakman, 1420 E. Strasburg Road – Had questions about the hours and days of the hunt. Marty said the hours are set by the Game Commission, but the days will be discussed at the next meeting. Carmen noted he has requested the DMC cut the number of hunting days, which will be discussed next week. Mr. Brakman suggested not hunting in January since only 3 deer were killed in January 2009.

Public Comment: Linda Polishuk, 1424 Grand Oak Lane – Asked the Board to reconsider the goal of having 8-15 deer per square mile and instead make the goal 8-10 deer, since that is the level at which the cycle of tick reproduction is broken. She then mentioned something called cluster hunting, a technique wherein all the open spaces are hunted simultaneously. Jim McRee

said that was something recommended by the Game Commission, but it was not discussed with the hunting groups.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Stated the Board is misleading the public, and Jim McRee, Linda Polishuk and Al Zuccarello were hand-picked by the Supervisors to serve on the DMC, and it's interesting that all three have ties to the Township's Planning Commission. Resident Carol Navarro was interested in joining the DMC but was turned down because she is opposed to hunting. Mr. Rahbari stated that no one serving on the DMC has any appropriate background, qualifications or credentials to serve on this committee. The DMC was put together specifically to give the Board the recommendations they wanted to hear. This Board has held the residents of East Goshen hostage, and the Supervisors should be ashamed of themselves. They are telling the public lies.

Public Comment: Caitlin Dempsey, 707 Jamestown Way – Asked if the DMC has any data going beyond last year on the deer/vehicle collisions in the Township. Jim McRee said they have data going back to 2003, with a 2-year data gap due to a change in the carcass removal contractor. He showed her the relevant slide from his presentation charting the data. Don told Miss Dempsey the Township website has maps showing the locations of all the carcass pickups for 2008 and 2009.

Public Comment: Ron Zeleski, 28 N. Lochwood Lane (speaking through an interpreter) – Asked if hunting will be suspended if the state declares an emergency due to weather, etc. Marty said that will be discussed next week.

Announcement

Marty announced that next week the formal meeting will start at 8pm. Prior to that, the Board will meet in workshop from 7-8pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings
Recording Secretary

Attachment (DMC Presentation)



East Goshen Township Deer Management Program

2008 Season Recap

June 9, 2009



Herd Reduction Program Highlights

39 Deer harvested from the open spaces.

- 33 does, 6 bucks.

25 Additional deer harvested on private land through new hunting.

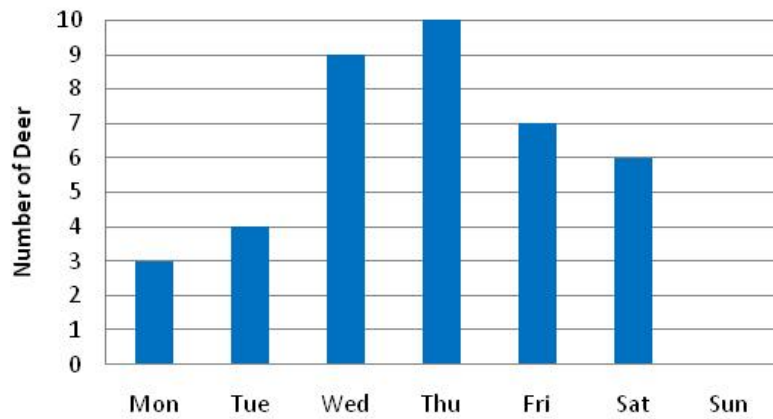
- Applebrook – 6 (5 does, 1 buck)
- Landowner Co-op – 19 (doe and buck numbers unavailable)

Noteworthy Observations

- Harvest goal met with no accidents, injuries, or near misses.
- All deer harvest between sunrise to 10am and 2pm to sunset. Mondays and Tuesdays were lower harvest days. Peak days were Wednesday and Thursday.
- The Deer Committee's "assumptions" regarding deer behavior before and after being shot were validated.
- A deer management group observed illegal hunting in Grand Oak. Suspect was prosecuted and convicted.
- Scheduling process was labor intensive on groups, township, and Deer Committee.
- 9 Deer donated to food banks and East Goshen residents.
- All open spaces were cleaned by the groups.

Open Space Deer Harvest Data

Open Space Hunting Program
Deer Harvest by Day of Week



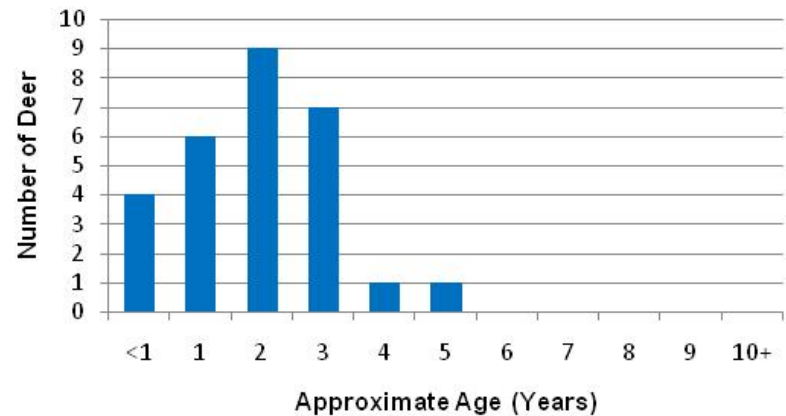
39 Deer harvested in 2008-09 season.

All harvested sunrise to 10am, 2pm to sunset. Distributed across all days.

80% ran 50 yards or less after being shot. No known human-deer contacts with shot deer.

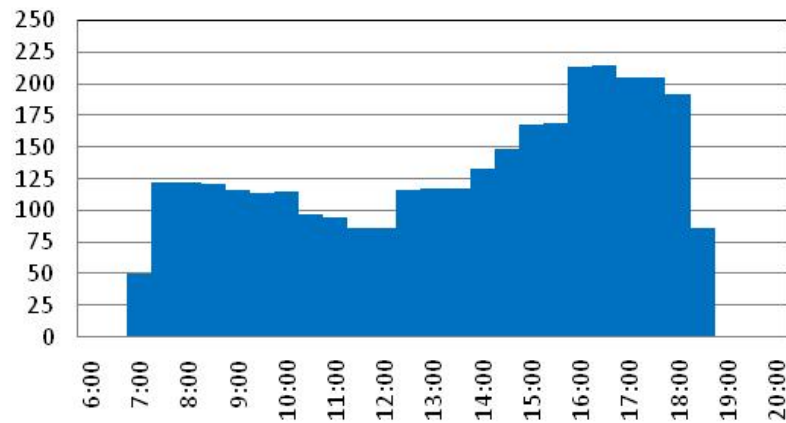
All harvested deer 5 years old or less. Deer naturally live 10 – 15 years.

Open Space Hunting Program
Approximate Age of Harvested Deer



Hunting Effort

Open Space Hunting Program
Sum of Active Stands - Sept 20 to Nov 3

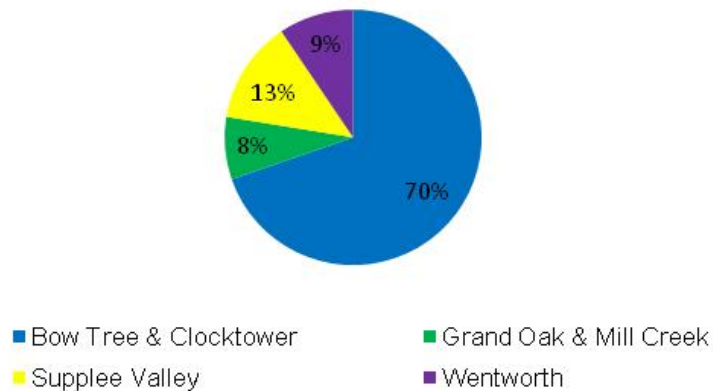


Most hunting effort sunrise to 10am and 2pm to sunset.

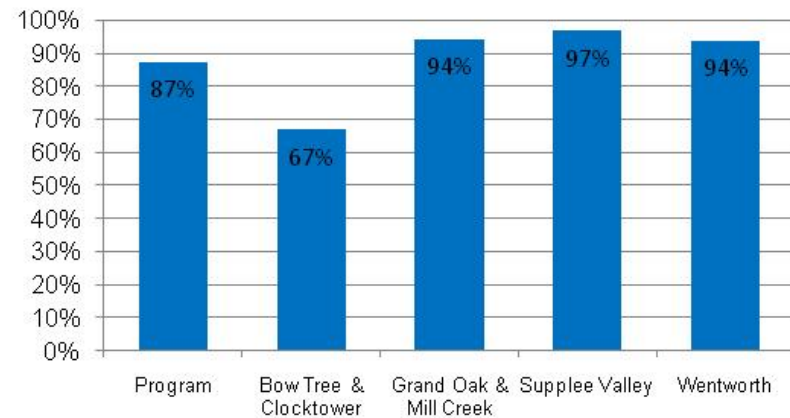
Hours to harvest 1 deer (9/20-12/22):
Bow Tree: 103(16) Grand Oak: 62(3)
Supplee: 44(7) Wentworth: 25(9)

Schedules provided by groups were accurate. Bow Tree less accurate.

Deer Management Program
Stand-Hours by Parcel - Sept 20 to Dec 22

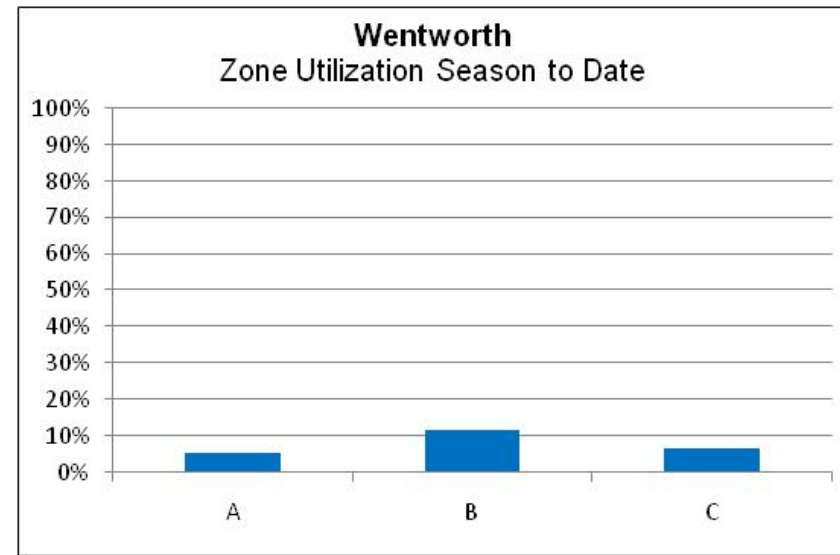
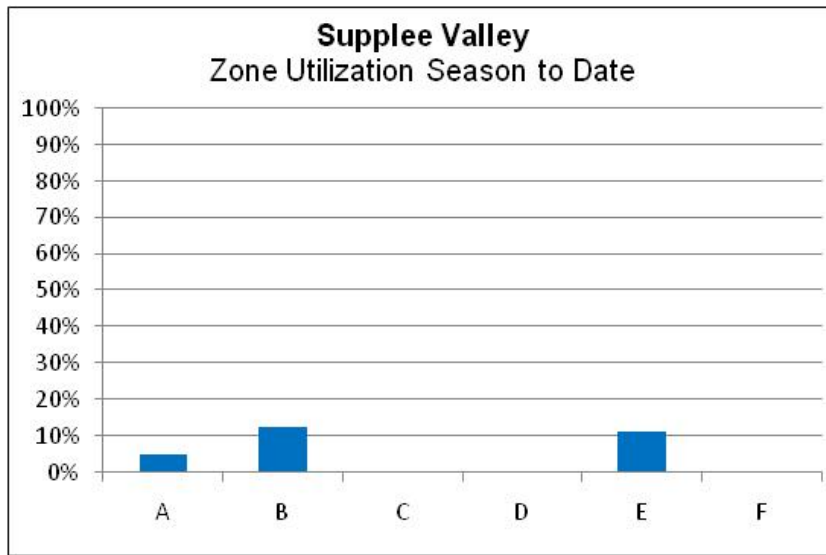
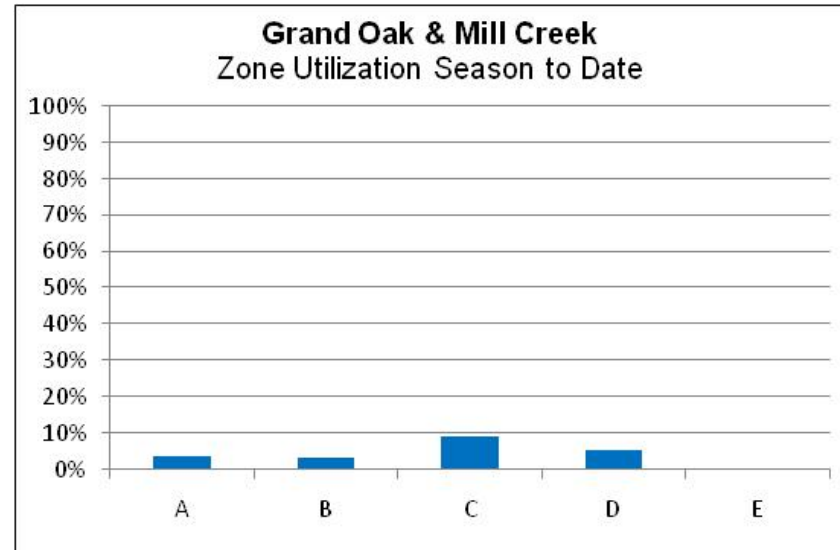
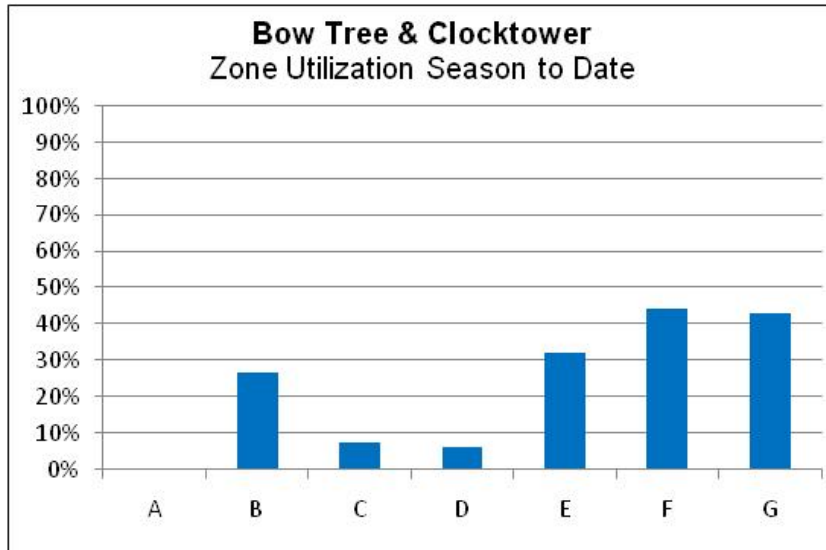


Open Space Hunting Program
Schedule Accuracy - Sept 22 to Nov 3



Open Space Zone Utilization

Sept 20 – Dec 22



Incidents & Complaints

Categorized as “High”, “Medium”, and “Low” severity.

- High: Public safety-related issues.
- Medium: Stand installation issues (issues that are neither high nor low).
- Low: Clerical issues.

High Severity

- 4 Unauthorized hunting.
- 1 Deer driving incident. Hunter responsible expelled from group.
- 1 Vandalism of tree stand. Straps holding stand to tree were loosened.

Medium Severity

- Several issues with stand locations and ladder heights.

Low Severity

- Many scheduling and reporting issues initially due to unclear procedures, later lack of compliance. Bow Tree highest offender.

Several residents offered compliments and their thanks to the hunters who executed the program.

A few residents submitted complaints to the township about hunters hunting Sunday or at night, or being in trucks after dark. All were investigated and found to be non-issues.

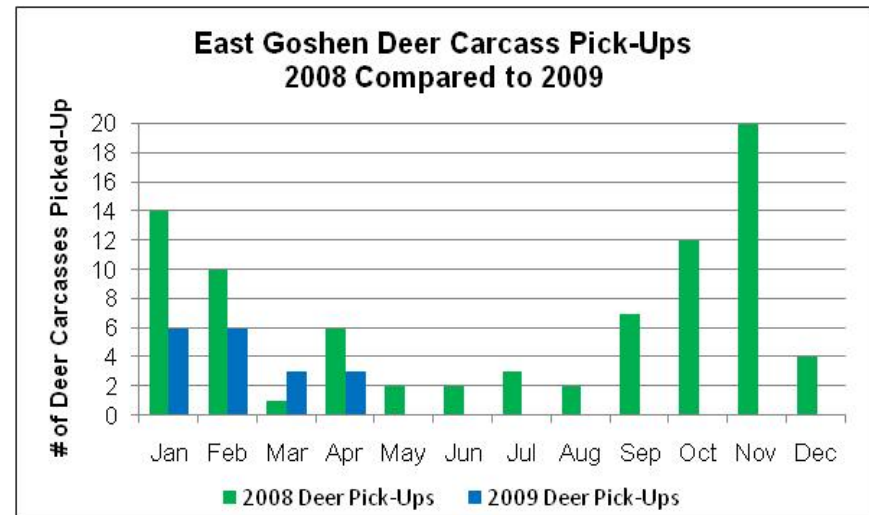
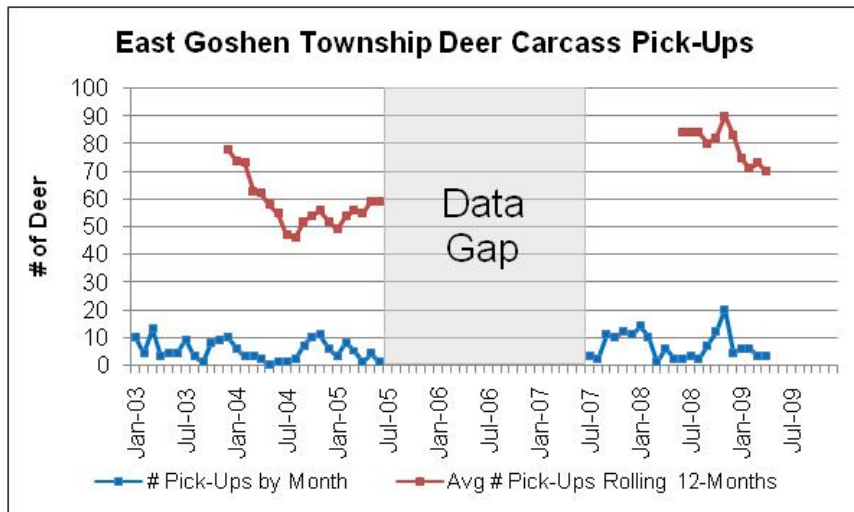
How do we know this is working?

There are 4 key township metrics:

1. How many deer are in East Goshen?
2. How many ticks or cases of Lyme disease do we have?
3. How much vegetation is there?
4. **How many deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) are occurring?**

Among these measures, we have reliable data only on #4 at the township level. Township data is not available for the others or is cost prohibitive to obtain.

DVCs are down 4 of last 5 months; from 90 per rolling 12 month period in November 2008 to 70 as of April 2009.



Recommendations for 2009

Material Program Changes

- Additional 50-foot safety zone applies to developed properties only.
- Zones will be closed if there are no plans to hunt them.
- Changed date references to be relative instead of absolute to avoid recurring annual updates.
- Daily and calendar schedule based on PA Game Commission's schedule. Impact is to permit hunting 30 minutes prior to sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset.
- Weekly schedules and updates will be emailed to residents.
- Deer driving is banned.

Operational Changes

- Simplified scheduling process to reduce group and township labor.
- Daily schedule to be primarily 3 timeframes: sunrise-30m to 10am, 10am to 2pm, and 2pm to sunset+30m. Expectation is for light usage of 10am to 2pm, opening timeframe for residents.

Thank You

Questions?