

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
GOSHEN FIRE HOUSE  
June 16, 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 Committee), Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission), and Senya Isayeff (Planning Commission).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session from 7:00pm to 8:00pm to discuss the police labor contract.

**FORMAL MEETING**

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Marty Shane called the meeting to order at 8:06pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Recording of Meeting**

No resident indicated that they planned to record the meeting.

**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.

**Minutes**

The draft minutes of June 2 were reviewed and corrected. Don moved to approve the minutes of June 2 as corrected. Thom seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The draft minutes of June 9 were reviewed and corrected. Carmen moved to approve the minutes of June 9 as corrected. Thom seconded the motion.

*Public Comment: Ron Zeleski, 218 N. Lochwood Lane (speaking through an interpreter) – Made a correction to his address for the record. He asked if the draft minutes can be edited by the Township before being distributed to the public, so the public won't have to sit through all the corrections and changes. Marty said the minutes are usually reviewed in Workshop, but this evening was an exception.*

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 Committee (DC), gave another recap of the 2008 Deer Management Program and recommendations for the 2009 Program for the benefit of residents who were not present at the June 9 meeting. A copy of his presentation is appended to these minutes.

*Public Comment: Joe Buonanno, 1606 Herron Lane* – Asked if the Township has any substantiation the deer Program is working to reduce the herd size and the number of ticks, because the only hard data he saw in the presentation was for Deer/Vehicle Collisions (DVCs). The Township is spending \$45K a year on this Program with no apparent benchmarks to measure success. Don said the benchmark being used is the goal of harvesting 36 deer per year over a 10-year period. For 2008 the Township exceeded that goal. Mr. Buonanno asked what is the benchmark for measuring a reduction in Lyme disease. Jim McRee said the Township never had a number for Lyme disease in East Goshen. Carmen offered Mr. Buonanno a copy of the *Daily Local News* article from June 4 which covers the problem of Lyme disease in Chester County. Mr. Buonanno said he had already read it. Mr. Buonanno asked how the Township can justify having the deer Program in light of the expense. He asked if the Township is going to spend \$500K over 10 years to try just to try and see if the Program works. Don said the Township will not be spending \$500K over 10 years; the cost of the Program in 2008 was an exception due to the startup costs and legal expenses. Mr. Buonanno asked if other Townships are participating in similar deer programs. Jim McRee said local Townships are supporting private initiatives, since not all of them have public open space like East Goshen that can be hunted. Thom said East Bradford has an active hunting program and did so before East Goshen. Marty told Mr. Buonanno the benchmark for success for the Program is a harvest of 36 deer per year, which is 150 deer over 10 years. At some point in the future the Township will have another aerial survey done to check the size of the herd, but this won't be done until the technology improves. Marty said there is a direct correlation between Lyme disease and the number of deer, and the tick control aspect of the Program will involve most of the expense for the Program going forward. Marty said the Township cannot control the legal expenses being paid by the Township, since it is up to residents if they wish to sue the Township or not. Marty said the Township had a successful Program in 2008 because of the number of deer harvested with minimal incidents. Jim McRee has talked to the COG (Council of Governments) and they are all very interested in seeing how the East Goshen Program works, but on the other hand they have witnessed the pain and expense East Goshen has incurred as a result of the Program. Mr. Buonanno was upset with the DC for the number of hours spent hunting in Bow Tree. Marty said the details of the Program and the costs involved are the result of the Board's decisions, and questions relating to the Program should be addressed to the Board, not Jim McRee or the DC.

*Public Comment: Janice Dempsey, 707 Jamestown Way* – Wants the Township to poll the residents to see how many are opposed to the Program. Marty said the Board has explored doing that, but taking an accurate poll would involve doing a statistically valid survey which is very expensive. Marty said the Board represents the 18,000 residents of the Township and felt it in the best interest of those residents to proceed with this Program, since the deer overpopulation affects the health, safety and welfare of the residents. Ms. Dempsey questioned whether the DVC chart in Jim McRee's presentation can be used as evidence of a successful Program since there are two years of data missing. Jim McRee said the DC believes that having 5 months out

of 6 where there are less carcass pickups indicates a positive trend. Marty asked Ms. Dempsey what she suggests the Township do about the deer problem instead of the current Program, since she is obviously opposed to it. Ms. Dempsey did not answer, but instead asked Jim McRee a question about closing unused hunting zones.

*Public Comment: Joe Buonanno, 1606 Herron Lane* – Asked if sharpshooting has been ruled out. Jim McRee said it has been ruled out due to safety concerns. The DC decided the extra risk and the expense (it costs approximately \$300-\$1,000 per deer) are not worth it. Mr. Buonanno said on the plus side, using sharpshooters would be a lot quicker than having an archery hunt spread out over the entire season. Jim McRee said it's a misconception that sharpshooters can come in and bag the entire harvest goal in one outing. Carmen said he personally is opposed to sharpshooting for the Township due to the safety concerns. It may be quicker but with the dimensions of the open spaces in East Goshen he would not even consider it, due to the risk of a freak accident. Linda Polishuk (DC member) said the Game Commission told the DC that Bow Tree is too small to accommodate sharpshooting.

*Public Comment: Marcia Gordon, 3008 Valley Drive* – Asked if juvenile deer are killed in the hunt. Jim McRee said they can be. Ms. Gordon said that when a doe is killed, the older fawn(s), who are still with her, will starve to death.

*Public Comment: Howard Jones, 1048 Kennett Way* – Asked if the DC knows how many deer East Goshen can support. Jim McRee said that expert opinions vary widely but the DC has gone with the assumption that 8-10 deer per square mile can be comfortably supported. Mr. Jones then suggested birth control be looked at as a possible solution. Marty said deer contraceptives were discussed extensively last year. There is currently no deer contraceptive approved for commercial use, and if there were it would not be appropriate for East Goshen since the deer in the Township are not in a confined area; they have the ability to travel and move around freely. What the Township is doing right now (hunting) is the only approved method for reducing the deer herd that is also appropriate for the area. Carmen said in the future if a contraceptive is approved he would be happy to consider it.

Carmen then moved that pursuant to Section 163-3N of the Code of East Goshen Township, the Board approve a resolution [later designated as Resolution 09-110] to adopt and implement a Program for the management of deer as set forth in the East Goshen Township Deer Management Program dated May 21, 2009 with the provision that hunting will not be permitted during the Thanksgiving Holiday, which would include Thanksgiving Day and the Friday and Saturday immediately following it; and the Christmas Holiday, which would include Christmas Eve through New Years Day. Don seconded the motion. Don suggested that the motion be amended to include the changes to the Program as discussed in workshop. Marty added that “will” or “must” throughout the May 21 document be changed to “shall.” Don said that in addition, the word Township should be capitalized throughout. Carmen accepted this amendment to the motion.

Joe acknowledged the extraordinary work done by Jim McRee and the DC. He said he cannot support the motion in light of the Township budget crisis, but he does fully support the Program.

Thom asked Marty if in addition to the changes made to the Program, the Board, by voting yes or no, would be voting whether or not to have the Program. Marty said yes.

*Public Comment: Art Polishuk, 1424 Grand Oak Lane* – Asked if Carmen’s motion was whether or not to accept the DC’s suggested changes to the Program. Marty said yes, with a couple of modifications.

There was no further discussion or public comment. The Board voted 4:1 to approve the motion. Joe was opposed.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Marty announced the following:

- The Board met in Executive Session this evening from 7:00pm to 8:00pm to discuss the police labor contract.
- The Board’s meetings on June 23 and June 30 will be held at the Goshen Fire House, 1320 Park Avenue. There is a possibility that the June 30 meeting will be cancelled.
- The Conditional Use Hearing for Metro PCS will be continued until July 21, 2009. In addition, the following public hearings will be conducted on July 21:
  - Hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance regarding final decisions by the Board on Conditional Use applications.
  - Hearing to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending various chapters of the Township code to authorize the Township to collect interest if various fees imposed by the code are not paid within 30 days from the date of billing.

### **Police Report**

Police Chief John Dumond reported there were 630 calls for service from East Goshen in May. There was an arrest this week related to the traffic fatality that occurred in Thornbury at Route 202 and Green Tree Drive in April; the person turned himself in. Chief Dumond reported that retired K-9 Rikko passed away on June 12. The police plan to do something to honor him. A person wanted by Marple Township was apprehended on S. Concord Road and arrested. Carmen noted that the numbers for disorderly conduct and harassment calls for May seemed high. Joe asked if the case is closed on the robbery at TD Bank, and the Chief said yes.

*Public Comment: John Schorn, Larch Lane* – Asked about an incident of a door being kicked in on Reservoir Road. Chief Dumond said the police are investigating.

*Public Comment: Ron Zeleski, 218 N. Lochwood Lane (speaking through an interpreter)* – Asked Chief Dumond if he was retired. The Chief said he would be retiring in the next couple of years. Mr. Zeleski asked if there were any deer-related traffic accidents in May. Jim McRee said there were three.

Don encouraged residents to sign up for email notifications from the Township such as the one that came out recently from the police about unpermitted solicitations. He reminded residents to ask to see a copy of a permit from solicitors.

**Resolution 09-109, To Accept Deeds of Dedication**

Don moved to adopt Resolution 09-109 to accept the Deeds of Dedication for King George Court and a portion of Cornwallis Drive. Thom seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**Hershey’s Mill Dam**

Marty acknowledged receipt of a letter dated June 10 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) saying the Township’s application for a grant to breach the Hershey’s Mill dam has been tentatively selected for funding. This topic will be on the agenda for discussion by the Board next week.

*Public Comment: Reed Bailey, 1515 Tanglewood Drive* – Asked if an application was filed for the grant. Marty said yes. Mr. Bailey asked who submitted it, and Marty said Rick Smith. Mr. Bailey asked if the grant is for funds to repair the dam. Rick said no; the only funding available is for breaching.

*Public Comment: John Schorn, Larch Lane* – Asked for an update on the fundraising efforts to save the dam, and has the Township set a goal that the fundraising committee must meet in order for the Township to save the dam. Marty said the Board has not gotten that far yet. He noted that the stimulus money (potential grant) will cover everything for a breach including engineering expenses, so the fundraising group has a very difficult challenge. Rick said the NRCS estimates a cost of \$250K to breach the dam, including engineering expenses.

*Public Comment: Dan Truitt, 1430 Grand Oak Lane* – Asked why action is required at the dam, and Marty explained.

**Bills**

The Treasurer’s Report and Expenditure Register Report were reviewed. Don reiterated his request for a list of expenses related to the King George Court litigation.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s Report for June 11, 2009:

	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 0.00	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 54,833.66	Accounts Payable \$ 98,129.12
LST	\$ 8,000.00	Electronic Payments \$ 0.00
Transfer Tax	\$ 0.00	Debt Service \$ 0.00
Codes, Park & Rec (2009)	\$ 11,485.44	Payroll \$ 40,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 74,319.10</b>	<b>Total Expenditures \$ 138,129.12</b>
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 804.00
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 14,075.28	\$ 14,659.23
Refuse	\$ 9,663.67	\$ 6,062.87
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report of June 11 and the Expenditure Register Report as recommended by the Treasurer in her June 12 memo, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Don seconded the motion.

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

### **Correspondence & Reports of Interest**

Marty acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Letter from Toth Bros Clearing & Dredging regarding their intent to submit an application to the Pennsylvania DEP for the Hershey's Mill gravel bar removal at Hershey's Mill Golf Course.
- Fire Marshal's and Goshen Fire Company's reports for May 2009.

### **Meetings & Dates of Importance**

Marty noted the upcoming meetings as listed in the agenda.

*Public Comment: Bill Egan, 1422 Mill Creek Drive* – Asked if there is a finance meeting scheduled for June 25 and Marty said yes. Mr. Egan noted it is not listed in the agenda with upcoming meetings.

### **Any Other Matter**

Thom showed the Board members photographs of the shelter constructed in the park by Eagle Scout candidate Mike Magnotta.

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Kathryn Yahraes of the Historical Commission reported that information on the 2009 Town Tours and Village Walks program is available on the Township website. The June Living History Day was very successful, drawing approximately 250 visitors. The Historical Commission will recognize students from Fugett Middle School tomorrow for their participation in National History Day.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned at 10:06pm..

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings  
Recording Secretary

*Attachment (DC Presentation)*



# East Goshen Township Deer Management Program

2008 Season Recap

June 16, 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)

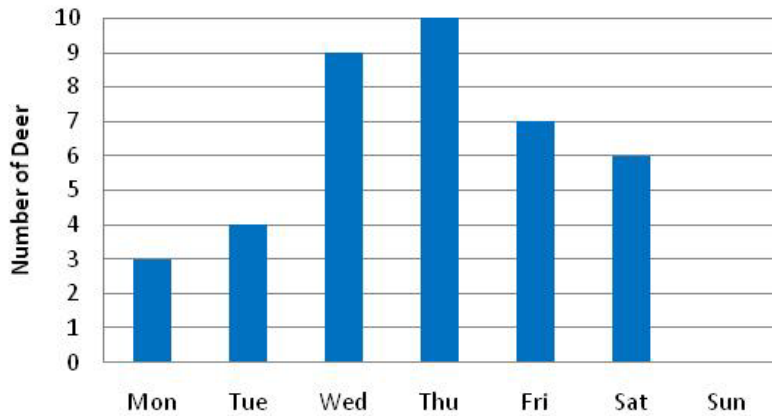
## **Noteworthy Observations**

- Harvest goal met with no accidents, injuries, or near misses.
- All deer harvest between sunrise to 10am (13) and 2pm to sunset (26). 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



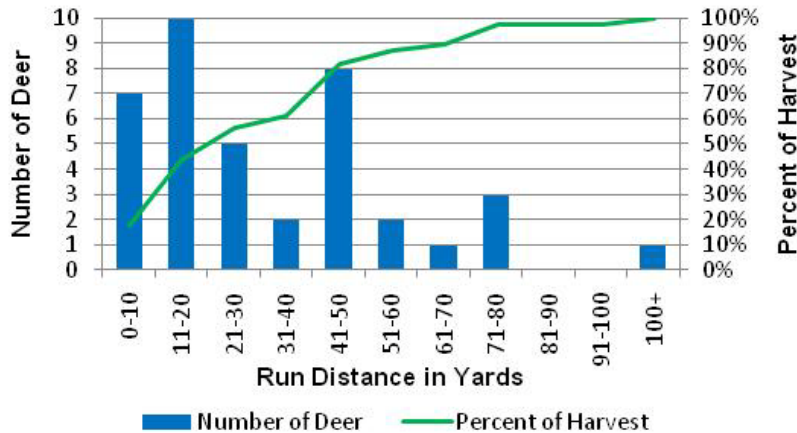
39 Deer harvested in 2008-09 season.

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

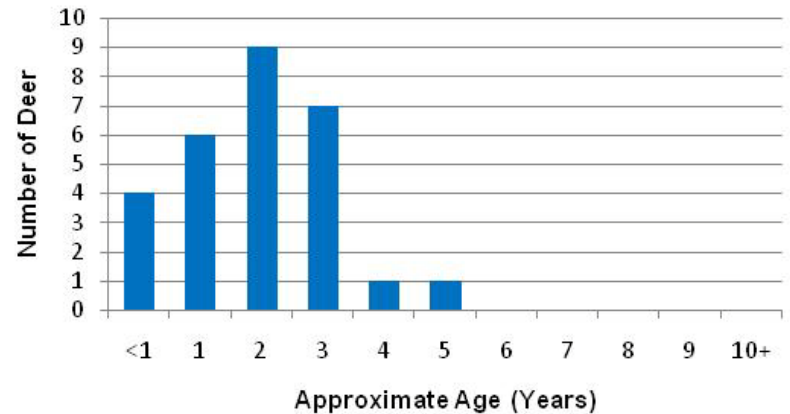
80% ran 50 yards or less after being shot. No known human-deer contacts with shot deer.

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

**Open Space Hunting Program**  
Distance Deer Ran from Being Shot



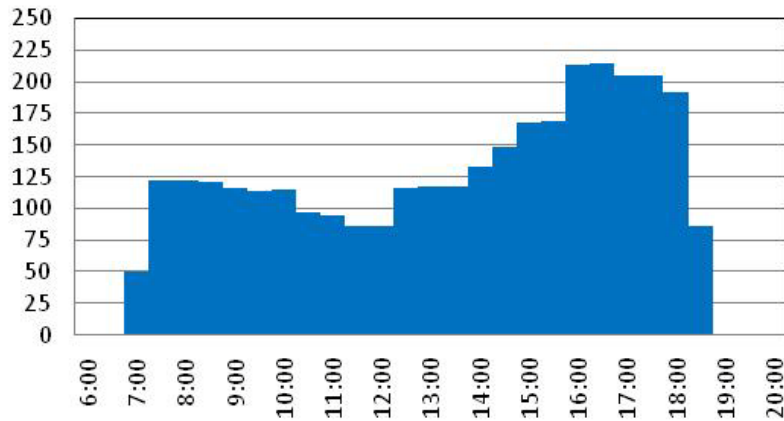
**Open Space Hunting Program**  
Approximate Age of Harvested Deer



# Hunting Effort

## Open Space Hunting Program

Sum of Active Stands - Sept 20 to Nov 3



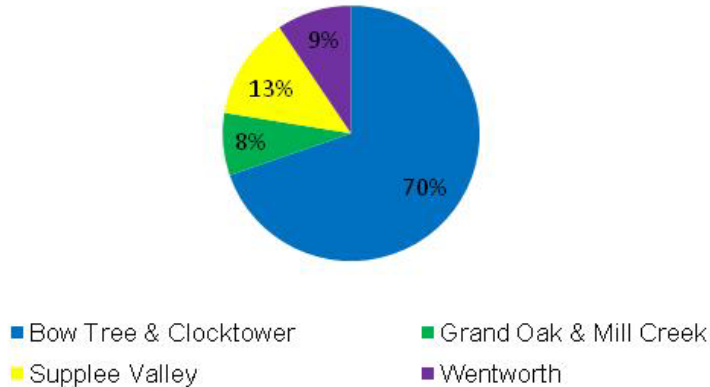
Most hunting effort sunrise to 10am and 2pm to sunset.

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.

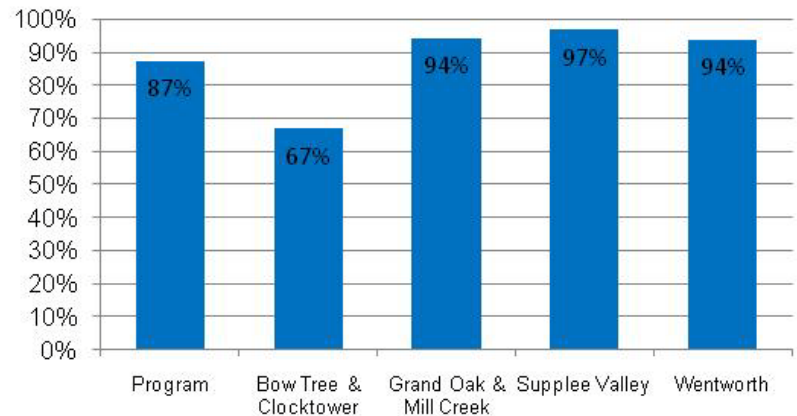
## Deer Management Program

Stand-Hours by Parcel - Sept 20 to Dec 22



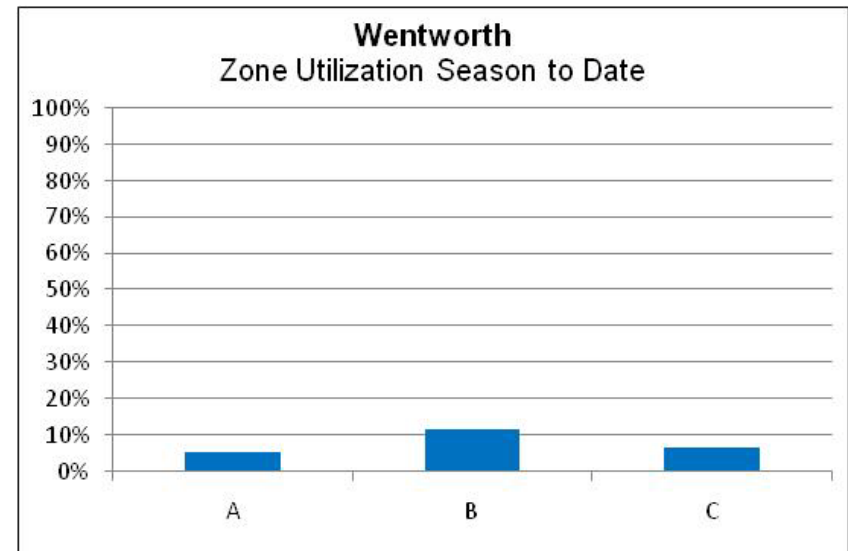
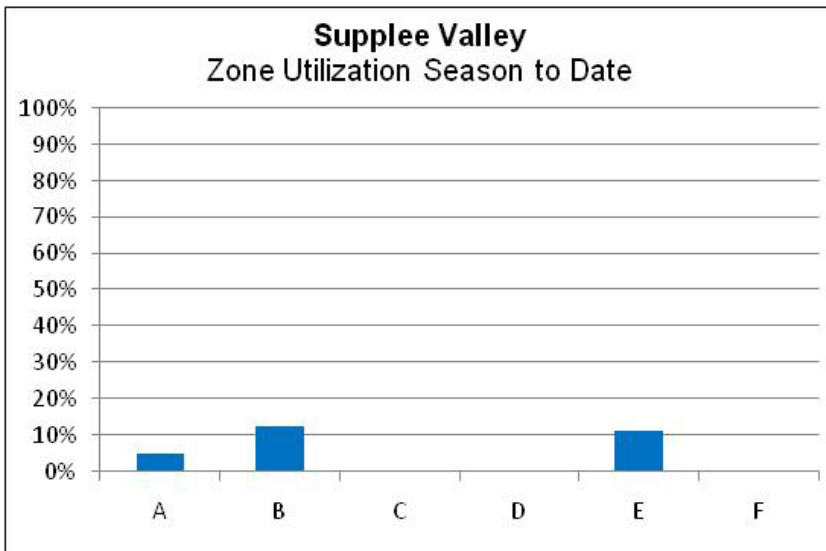
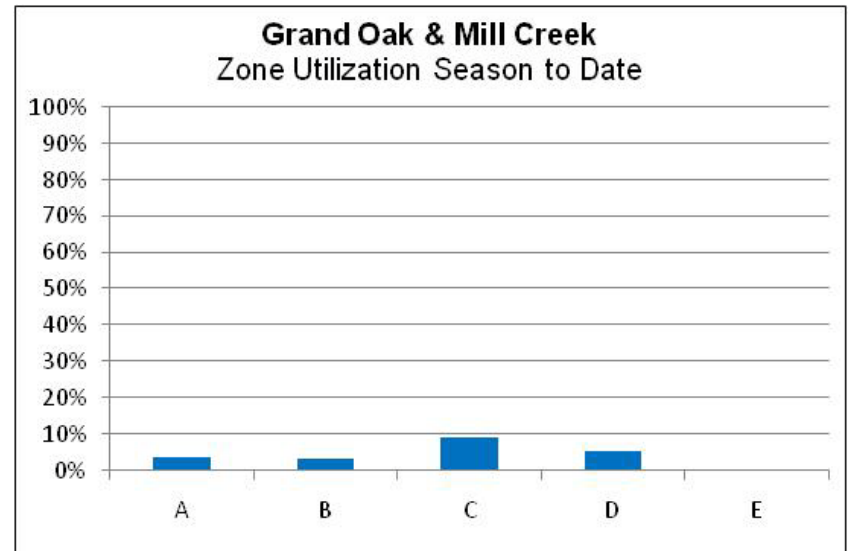
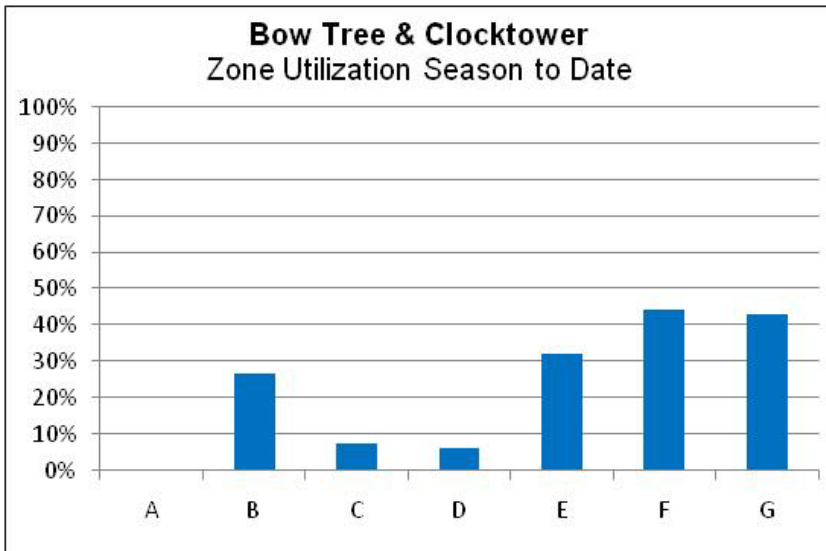
## Open Space Hunting Program

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?

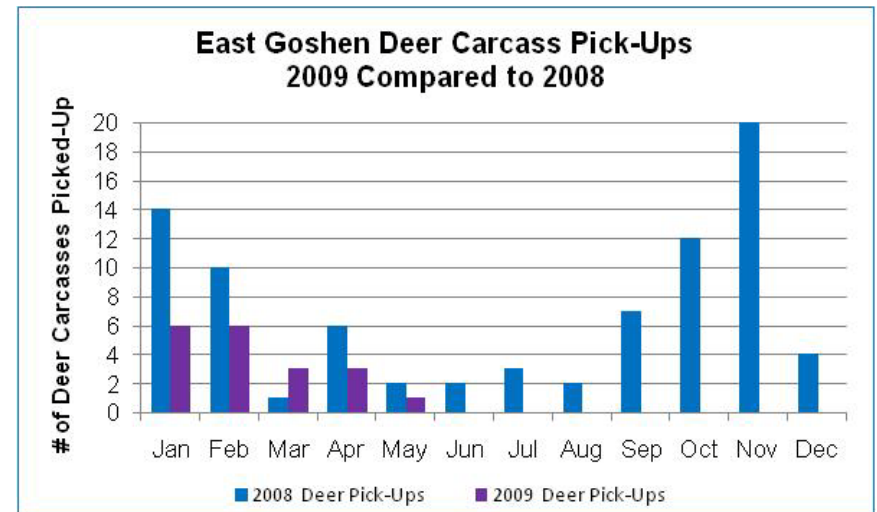
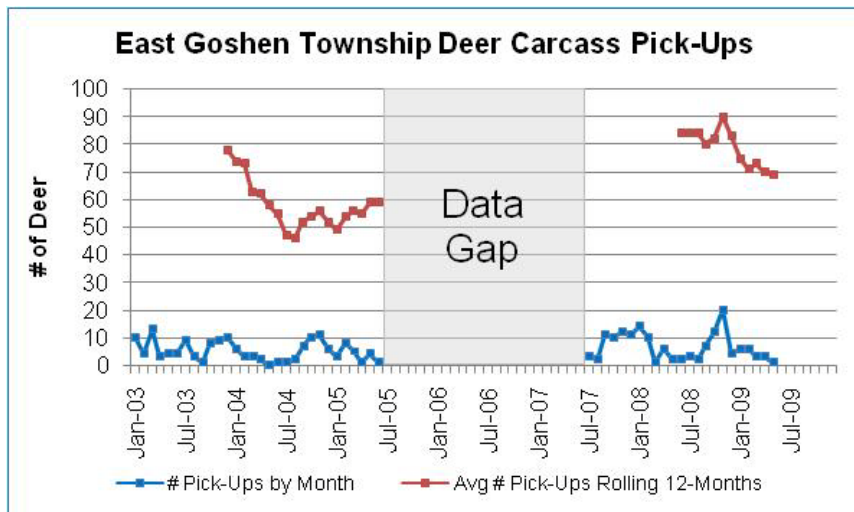
There are 4 key township metrics:

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 42% YTD compared to 2008. Decreases in 5 of last 6 months. Rolling 12 month DVC count was 90 in November 2008. It is 69 in May 2009.

Fewer deer and resident education appears to be having a positive impact.



# 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?**