

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
DEER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2014**

The East Goshen Township Deer Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday May 19, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Goshen Township building. In attendance were: Chairman Jim McRee, Matt Keating and Ed Sweeney.

Also in attendance were:

Corrine Edelman, resident

Keystone Archers Representative - Andy Wahn

Mainline Whitetail Mgrs Representative – Ed Jaeger

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim asked for a moment of silence to remember our troops.

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

B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting were approved.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Corrine Edelman, 922 Monte Vista Drive, reported that a few days ago she and her husband went out to walk in the East Goshen Park at 7:30 am. There were 10 deer at the back of their property. About 5 days before there were 5 deer. They have lived here for 42 years and this is the most deer they have ever seen. She is very concerned because of the Lyme Disease. Her nephew's daughter is a freshman in college and should be a junior. She had Lyme Disease. When she is tested now, she does not test positive but the neurologic problems have started. She suggested closing the park for a day for archery hunters to hunt. Jim thanked her for coming and sharing her concerns. The Deer Committee was started in 2007 when an infrared test showed about 300 deer in East Goshen. The goal was to cut that number by 50%. Because the test cost \$16,000, there is no current count. However, the car incident reports involving deer has been reduced about 50%. He briefly described the Deer Program and when and where the hunting is allowed.

D. DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Jim commented that applications were received from the following 5 groups:

1. Tri-County Deer Management Assoc. – No representative present
2. Chester County Trackers – No representative present
3. Deer Mgmt. Professionals of SE PA – Mike Aiello was present
4. Main Line Whitetail Managers – Ed Jaeger was present with 1 other
5. Keystone Archers – Andy Wahn was present with 5 others

Mike Aiello commented that they would like to get back into the Clocktower property. They have 6 properties that they hunt on and harvested 30 deer on the Westtown School property last year. They have about 40 members.

Ed Jaeger mentioned that they have always hunted in Supplee Valley. They have a few new members this year. Most of the property is open space with very few trees. They keep the area clean and the residents are used to them.

Andy commented that they have 13 members now. All of the members are local including 2 Bowtree residents. This winter was challenging but the members are dedicated. They participate in the annual clean up and would like to be assigned to Bowtree and Wentworth again.

Jim thanked them all for applying. The committee members reviewed the applications. On the recommendation of Mark Gordon and past experience, Matt move to recommend that the Board of Supervisors appoint the following deer management groups to hunt the respective open space areas:

- Chester County Trackers – Grand Oak/Millcreek
- Main Line – Supplee
- Keystone Archers – Bowtree/Clocktower
- Tri County Deer Management Association – Wentworth

Ed seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Aiello commented that he doesn't feel Keystone Archers is a big enough group to handle Bowtree and feels the numbers show it. He left the meeting.

Jim commented that if it turns out that staffing is a problem and the yield drops, then the Committee will look for a larger group. This recommendation will go the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

It is Jim's understanding that the PA Commission is going to allow baiting this season. East Goshen has 9 4-posters in inventory if any of the groups want to use and maintain them. It might help increase yields. Jim feels the Committee should make a recommendation to allow baiting. Matt moved to approve the use of baiting as allowed by the PA Commission. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The hunting groups support this.

Public Comments:

Ed Jaeger asked for the blackout dates to be reconsidered. Jim commented that the BOS has never approved a change. Matt feels it is a good compromise for the residents. Ed donates some of his deer meat to Safe Harbor in West Chester.

Andy Wahl reaffirmed that Keystone is all long term hunters and they feel they do as good as Deer Mgmt. Pros. Also, there are some property owners using private hunters.

Matt feels that it is good to have a group of residents and local hunters involved in the program.

Jim thanked the groups for keeping their areas clean.

E. DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS

The committee members reviewed the vehicle collision reports. Jim would like to have a history on the report, not just one year.

Jim brought up the Vehicle Mitigation Program where flashing lights would turn on when the deer came near the road. He feels they should try to get a grant. Matt commented that they tried to get grants in the past and weren't able to. Ed pointed out that most of the roads with deer fatalities are State roads. Jim feels they could ask approval from the State, maybe approach Dan Truitt. Ed will talk to Dan Truitt.

F. NEW BUSINESS - None

G. ANY OTHER MATTER

Saturday, June 21, 2014 is Community Day. Matt had a table with information a few years ago. He will contact Jason Lang.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held the 3rd Monday in August. The hunting groups should come to get supplies. Mark will let the groups know when the Board of Supervisors will be considering the Committee's recommendation. Matt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary