

**TOWN OF HARVARD  
DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES  
ZOOM MEETING 7:45 pm – 8 pm  
Wednesday Jan 11, 2023**

**Committee members present**

**Ben Urquhart, Bob Douglas, Joe Pulido, Tom Cotton, Paul Willard**

Bob did introduction.

Tom offered Minutes for Sept 12, 2022 for approval. Paul moved to approve. Seconded by Tom. Unanimous.

Tom offered Mon Sept 19, 2022 for approval including additional comments offered by Joe. Joe made a motion for approval, Seconded by Paul. Unanimous.

Bob thanked all for a good season.

Joe gave a report on stand removal. Hunters have been notified stands should be removed. Joe will re-canvas hunters.

Joe gave an update on orange trail sign removal. Wendy Sisson (Stewardship), Bob and Joe believe all signs have been removed.

Joe gave the Harvest report, four does were harvested this season as part of the program hunt. (Superseding last years count). Damon-Stephenson and Maxant (new site) were the locations.

Bob stated he would like to have the State Deer Biologist at the next meeting.

Bob stated this the first meeting we have had since there was a deep discussion about privacy and the information gathered from the Hunters is shared with the Town's Deer Management Subcommittee and the Commission. What information is required from our volunteer hunters and how it should be handled.

The Chairman of the ConCom has expressed an interest in how the working out what information is required and how best to handle it.

Bob asked permission from the DMS to reach out to the Chairman to get an update on that.

Ben: *"Its important to me that that we distinguish between personal opinions and the vote of the committee – I understand there has been a lot of back and forth on the subject. I was not aware of that until later in the conversation. So I'm glad to hear you will be meeting with the Chair of ConCom – and I look forward to participating in further conversations."*

Bob *"This is the first DMS conversation we have had on this – right now – is the only time we have ever talked about this – other than this it was not a DMS action. I do want to find out what is desired and – I do want to find a mutually acceptable conclusion to this. I do plan to reach out to the Chairman of the Conservation Commission."*

Bob asked about the Reports for the ConCom

Tom: Last year we gave two reports - a Summary and then a more extensive Report including a summary of the Hunter Survey. Tom asked about vandalism/ harassment incidents to add to this years Report.. Bob polled group and we had no incidents.

Bob recalled a case of baiting which was reported and is under investigation – this unpermitted activity was discovered by a program hunter. Also, two poachers were apprehended by the police.

Ben noted that this is in keeping with the desire of many to keep unpermitted hunter off of Conservation lands – and the DMS role in this.

Bob asked a vote to regarding sending the initial Summary report to the ConCom – approved unanimously by acclimation.

Bob said he would contact the members about a meeting and will find out more information on a date with a preference for February.

Bob: Dan can we help you with anything?

Dan Tracey: “No, no thanks, I’m all set”

Bob: Eve can we help you with anything?

Eve Wittenburg: “No thanks”.

Paul: Motion to adjourn.

Joe second;

Unanimous.

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