

TOWN OF HARVARD DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

ZOOM MEETING 7:00pm – 8:30 pm

Monday March 27, 2023

Bob Douglas, Joe Pulido, Tom Cotton, Ben Urquhart

Bob gave the introduction.

Subcommittee interested in discussing and approving the Report for the 2022 Season.

Tom: No questions. I think it looks good. Built on previous years report. Shows how program has evolved.

Bob: Damon Stephenson has been productive.

Tom: Each year, different properties produce harvest. Not the same from previous years.

Bob: Many factors involved.

Don: Wind, weather, food sources, herd patterns – change every year – I may be totally different properties next year.

Report was well done. Town Harvest information useful. Good Comments from Dr. Feehan.

Joe: Complete report. Liked deer numbers for the whole town included, not just our hunt. Pretty much on point.

Bob: I liked the Deer Biologists comments that simply having more hunters in the woods can contribute to a larger harvest.

Ben: Made some grammatical changes, flow was fine.

Bob: Will add information from the Town Police on car-deer strikes.

Bob: Seeking motion for provisional approval – and the allowance that minor comments / information may be added at his discretion.

Joe made motion/ Seconded by Tom

Unanimous vote.

Oak Sentinels.

Bob has planted acorns and hopes they will grow seedlings.

Ben: Seeds will take a while to grow.

Bob: Ben you are on the Sentinel committee now.

New Properties.

Bob: Its worth asking Stewardship if they have other areas that might be appropriate.

Joe: Scorgie/Tufts/Clapp near cemetery. Good deer signs.

East Bare Hill and Brown Road Conservation Area.

Has deer evidence. Multiple entrances.

Tom: That's the Abbot/Reed/Powell Land. It is worth asking.

Qualifiers/Hunting selection

Joe: Need to know if there are available slots. We would need people not to return or open more land. Qual date in late July generally.

Usually three days of qualifying provides opportunity.

Stands to be set in late August.

Don: We should establish a minimum of times a hunter participates. If someone goes just a couple of days, we should look for other people to hunt the properties.

Bob: We are tasked with bringing the numbers down. We need the hunters in the stands and scout ahead of time.

Bob: We will meet again to approve minutes and pre-game the ConCom.

Joe: The report date is School Vacation week.

Bob: Tentative date will be the 13th for our next meeting.

Dan Tracey: Marty Feehan recommended AVID Technique and requires training. Avid Deer.Com program. (31:03)

Bob: In favor of learning AVID and getting training in it. We have studied many.

Joe: What methods are other towns using.

Bob: Weston measures car strikes. Which is easy – its done by police. State Reservations (Blue Hills/Quabbin) use pellet studies. But I'm unsure if any other towns do any monitoring. It is difficult to determine deer density.

Motion to adjourn Joe – Second Tom

Bob declared adjournment