

Harvard Deer Management Subcommittee Minutes

Nov 21, 2019
Harvard Town Hall
650pm

In attendance: Paul Willard, Tom Cotton,
Jason Cole, Bob Douglas, Ben Urquhart

Topics Discussed:

Bob: Quabbin and Blue Hills have used
Pellet Counts for deer population
monitoring as have other studies.

We discussed deer pellet monitoring. Ben
introduced a plan to hire a forester to lead
us in conducting a pellet survey according
to known methods using transects with

variable plot locations. It was suggested that we ask ConCom for \$2K in funding for the cost of hiring the forester. Jason expressed need for a better understanding of methods and further discussion.

Bob suggested the possibility of training Harvard Garden Club members to help us with pink lady slipper counts

We discussed the 10-tallest vegetation monitoring method, using approximately 3 sites per parcel on a combination of hunted and non-hunted parcels.

We discussed the Oak Sentinel monitoring method, which involves planting oak saplings both within and outside of exclosures and then comparing their success over time.

We discussed unauthorized tree stands on conservation land. We will be tagging

these stands with tags that inform owners that they are unauthorized and that they must be removed within two weeks or they will be removed by us. On Sunday, we plan to hike some conservation properties and tag stands. Agreed by mutual assent: We will tag stands Sunday if we get the greenlight from ConCom.

Jason brought up mapping. We discussed using Arc GIS and perhaps asking for help from HCT, SVT and Mass Wildlife.

Next meeting first Thursday in December. Will set calendar for the year, and discuss deer census.

Adjourned 735pm