

**TOWN OF HARVARD
DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Monday Aug 23, 2021**

Bob Douglas DMS Chair
Paul Willard, DMS
Joe Pulido, DMS
Tom Cotton, DMS

Also: Greg Arthur
Don Osmer.

Bob called the meeting to order 630 and thanked subcommittee members for their good work.

Joe gave an outline and shared his screen.

Discussed assigning sites. Presented properties we were approved to hunt on, and discussed how many archery hunters the sites could hold. It is an increase in sites, and we will recruit from the active hunters from the previous year.

There are roughly 33 positions available for the ranked hunters. The most active hunters from town and out of town will be designated for properties first. About 10 hunters were the most active.

Joe will send out emails asking the archers to scout the properties, and reply by the 31st of August their property preference. We would also stop the Qualifier at that point too.

Joe has Qualifiers coming up next Thursday and Saturday.

The total number of archers will be reduced from last year.

Archers will submit areas they are interested in, and we will assign them to the best of our ability according to their 'wish list' of properties they have scouted.

The active hunters from previous years would be assigned preferences first.

Bob added his assent that these active hunters have 'paid their dues'.

Joe stated, we want the properties to be hunted more often.

Bob and Joe discussed hunter packets.

Bob, I asked Liz to be on the next ConCom agenda.

Joe: We want to make sure we give the Archers time to set up their stands.

September 15 will be a mandatory meeting for the hunters.

We want to encourage communication among the hunters.

Bob: Bob asked about alternate hunters.

Joe: Alternates would come in if there was not hunting activity on a property, and they could discuss with the assigned hunters, the possibility of hunting the property.

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Don: Lands are hunted when the wind is right, not every day. Coordinate with hunter sharing parcel. Less is more. Assign each hunter one or two spots.

Bob asked other DMS members their thoughts.

Tom: I like the concept.

Ben: I do support assignment of sites. Keep as simple as possible.

Paul: Simple is the best, as its complicated enough already.

Joe: I will assign from all our qualified hunters.

Bob: Less hunters and but more dedicated crew and assigned to sites.

Joe: New Harvard residents would be added to the program.

Tom: We may want to have a pool of hunters with climbers as alternates.

Bob mentioned the interview with hunter from last year who said he may just hunt a site 8 times a season, following intensive scouting. This reduces the scent and human activity that might spook the deer.

Joe: Lot of different avenues. Difficult to find the one that will work the best for the program. Unless we go through this we won't know what the best way to do it is.

Joe asked if calendar could be added to the log. Ben: No.

Bob: Outlook calendar may work.

Greg: I like the idea of a hunter being the captain of a property – it may increase success. I like them having a say as to whom can hunt that parcel.

Joe - Herman Orchard and Rodrigues can be treated as the same property.

There will probably be two people assigned and they can coordinate.

Tom: Motion to accept plan and take into consideration comments.

Seconded by Paul.

Bob: Joe to be given latitude to assign sites. Most familiar with the archers and properties. Alternates to be assigned as needed.

Bob: Passes Unanimously

Bob thanked crew, scouts and State Deer biologist for all their good work on this.

Bob suspends the next days (Tuesday's Aug 24) meeting.

Bob asked visitors for input:

59:00 Eve asked for document to be sent to Liz. Asked motion to be restated.

Tom did so.

Bob: Documents will be sent to Liz within the timeframe she has assigned us.

Motion to adjourn unanimous

733pm adjourned.

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