

**TOWN OF HARVARD
DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING 6:30pm – 7:30 pm
Monday AUG 29, 2022**

Committee members

**Ben Urquhart, Bob Douglas, Joe Pulido, Tom Cotton
Don Osmer, David Pinard – Volunteer**

Tom acted as chairman and gave the introduction.

All minutes are on website and videos can be found on Harvard TV.

Recommended videos of the meetings with David Stainbrook State Deer Biologist and Robert Wernerehl, State Botanist.

Discussed Distribution of Hunters.

Joe gave assignment list for hunters for their properties.

We will propose to ConCom some new properties to the Commission.

Most of last years hunters will be on properties they hunted before.

Bob: It's a meritocracy, the hunters that have put in the most time will get a preference and voiced his support for Joe's decision.

Kelvin Wiebe asked if there was a waitlist for the hunt.

Joe said interested parties contacted him in June.

Joe mentioned Abbot-Reed-Powell; Kaufmann & Town Forest; Prospect Hill; Scorgie-Tufts-Clapp; Sprague; Williams land.

Greg Arthur and Don Osmer stated the properties do have deer on them. There may be unauthorized hunter stands on some of them.

Bob mentioned the intern had done a successful camera look at deer on Williams.

Joe made a motion to advance to ConCom previously submitted parcels (Prospect Hill, Sprague and Williams) for inclusion in the deer management program. Bob seconded. Unanimous vote.

DMS reviewed the Checklist of activities. Joe presented on screen.

Went through calendar year of anticipated activities. Bob suggested giving Tree tags prior to other materials.

(Note: Substantial technical difficulties in the meeting due to bad signal)

It was decided to bring the Checklist to ConCom.

Discussion on metrics on qualifying for different bows; Traditional, Crossbows and Crossbows. Traditional bows (recurve) we could consider lowering that range to 17-yards.

Bob mentioned that each crossbow shooter must have a special permit from the state that is only give to hunters with a specific disability as certified by a doctor and accepted by the State of Massachusetts. Bob cautioned about the optics of having a different and harder test for disabled people.

Bob also mentioned that traditional (recurve) bow users hone their skills to get to closer distance to the deer – usually around 15 yards or less.

Ben asked that we take this up at another future point. Not something we need to bring up now. Simple and well defined. Tom: We can revisit this in the spring – it won't affect this year's hunt. Joe: We are set for this year. Tom: Table for now.

Deer Population study methodology.

Bob: Oak sentinels – put out oak seedlings – and the Univ Wisconsin Camera study taking place in the Commonwealth. Bob asked to approach Commission. Tom camera has low threshold – Oak sentinels may be time consuming.

Bob cost for everything would be \$300 or less for camera pilot test.

Ben – give notice to public.

Bob made motion for \$300 request. Second by Joe. Unanimous vote.

Bob will take to ConCom.

Tom we will meet in two weeks.

Eve, Dan, Marty, Kelvin any comments?

Eve: no comments

Dan: Have you notified hunters that deer carry covid?

Tom: Will notify hunters.

Kelvin: You may want to post guidelines on social media regarding hunt.

Bob motion to adjourn, second by Joe.

Passed unanimously.