

Deer Management Subcommittee Minutes Town Hall - Second Floor - Main Hall

February 27, 2020 645pm

In attendance:

Jason Cole
Tom Cotton
Bob Douglas
Ben Urquart

Topics Discussed:

Cameras:

- For discussion: should we buy a few more expensive cameras or more for less money each?
- Bob: we could set up cameras to get an idea of deer presence
- Jason: hunters will use their own cameras
- Ben: some Carlisle residents felt that camera use was not communicated properly by their deer program. We should consult ConCom on how to advertise their use in Harvard
- Tom: there is a potential for vandalism/theft of cameras
- Bob: the model he owns is \$35, works well; Ben moved to start with 5 of these cameras; Tom seconded; approved unanimously

GPS Devices:

- Jason: we will need GPS devices for pellet surveys. Liz says we can borrow two from the town. Should/can we use part of our \$500 camera budget to buy our own?
- Discussion: we would need approval for this change in spending
- Ben & Tom can bring one GPS unit each for use in surveys
- Bob: GPS units need to be able to take in programmed transects
- Ben: we might not need GPS units - he will discuss with David
- Tom: we should borrow them this yr, maybe purchase next time we do survey

Surveys:

- Jason: David Stainbrook is available 3/5, 3/11 and the week of 3/16 to train us on pellet surveys. This is a closed window of opportunity, and we should consider doing training on the early side in case of snow (training cannot be done with snow cover)
- Jason: David has planned for us to start with "Area 128" between Mass Ave, Stow Rd and 495. We need to get permission from some landowners with property along the transects given to us by David
- Tom: we should send letters asking permission
- Jason: we could start with the Willard/Poitras transect area, which has fewer private parcels, longer transects, could possibly avoid private property
- Ben will call David re possibility of using random plots within town-owned lands, avoiding use of private property
- Jason: if David says we must conduct surveys according to transects as planned, we should start contacting property owners
- Jason will send David's contact info to Ben
- Ben: 3/5 hard to make, 3/11 ok, 3/16-20 ok
- Tom: 3/11 ok, 3/16-20 unknown
- Jason: potential control properties: Bowers Springs, Holy Hill; DFW might survey Oxbow, Fruitlands, areas near Delaney
- Jason: if we are going to train on 3/5/20, we need to decide tonight, since we will not meet again until after that
- Bob: our "Plan A" is to train on 3/5/2020 with David
- Jason will set 3/5/2020 as training date with David, copying Ben. Ben will call David to discuss survey methodology as described above

Feb 20, 2020 minutes approved unanimously

Next meeting March 5, 2020, 645pm

Meeting adjourned