

**TOWN OF HARVARD
DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
ZOOM MEETING 6:30-7:20pm
Thursday SEPT 10, 2020**

Please Note: A recording of this meeting may be found at Harvard TV.

Tom, Ben, Bob, Paul, Jason present. Guests Dan T, Ben L, Joe P, Don O, Eve W, Wendy S.

Bob began the meeting with the standard language regarding remote meetings in the pandemic.

Ben reviewed his interpretation of the recent Conservation Commission meeting where that group was debating the possible assignment of hunters to rotating locations.

Guest Dan T stated thanks for that work, but voiced concerns over comments from Captain Amati the previous week, specifically about an overload of hunters on properties, possibly in zone 10. He still favors his proposal to rotate hunters.

Bob brought up a question about having a different distance for qualifying on recurve bows. The group agreed that would be appropriate for discussion in future years.

Guest Eve W asked for clarification on how many people have already been approved, the answer to which was 29.

Ben was asked for an update on the log, where there was no new news, but changes can be made at any moment.

Bob started a conversation about the maps for the five properties. A concern remains about parking for Rodriguez. Conversations with neighbors were not revealing any answers, the Harvard police have stated that people should park anywhere legal along Ayer Road.

Paul stated that hunters have been finding their own places to park forever and that they do not need our help.

Bob reminded everyone that the edited rules from Wendy were to be discussed at the next Con Com meeting. Additional updates were given on ID tags, tree stand tags, and parking dashboard tags, all of which are in process.

Wendy S brought up the question of pheromones in the rules and whether or not this should be allowed. She also discussed the start date of the hunt and the importance of Does vs. Bucks.

Don O responded to say that the use of pheromones, all season attractants, and masking odors depends upon the habits of the hunter and that for him it was often about covering smell rather than attracting deer. He further stated that limiting the tools available to the hunters would have consequences for the success of the hunt.

Bob O suggested that the correct answer was whatever is legal in MA.

Further conversation among the guests about possibly restricting doe estrus scent and that this would be discussed further in Con Com.

Eve W. asked a question about the timing of hunting season and when the stands come down. Bob responded to suggest that the date was set for early February. Some conversation was had about whether or not this was too late.

The next meeting was set for the following Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.