

**TOWN OF HARVARD
DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING 7:30pm – 8:51pm
Tuesday JUNE 22, 2021**

DMS Bob Douglas, Joe Pulido, Ben Urquhart, Paul Willard.
Greg Arthur, Don Osmer, Daniel Tracey, Eve Wittenberg, Paul Holzman

DMS Discussed properties to be recommended for the Fall 2021 Hunt

Bob asked for information from the scouting teams, results and highlight were shown on the screen. The screen image showed the properties and relevant setbacks. Access, observed deer activity, and parking was discussed. Scouts report there was deer activity on all sites evaluated. Sites included: Blomfelt, Dunlap, Gillette, Great Elm, Herman Orchard (abuts Rodrigues), Holy Hill, Maxant Land, Old Mill Road Land, Prospect Hill, Shaker Spring House, Sprague Land, Vesenka, and Williams Land.

Bob and Ben asked that additional setbacks marks be placed on Holy Hill. Paul said that there would likely be push-back on the Holy Hill site. Ben asked Holy Hill be removed. Joe suggested we present all of them to the Commission so they can make the decision. Paul said we should present all that have been presented – with the exception of Holy Hill. Eve Wittenberg suggested foot and bicycle traffic, deer impact, and playing field presence as a criteria for evaluation. (50:56)

The DMS moved on to distribution of hunters on the properties. Don Osmer recommended that with a few exceptions, like Damon Stephenson, most properties considered should be one or two people. He also mentioned direct coordination between the hunters on shared properties. Greg suggested that perhaps each hunter get multiple sites. Ben agreed. Paul said that hunters working in pairs can be effective. Tom asked how do the individual parcels get fairly distributed? Bob said in some towns the coordinator has each hunter put in their top 5. Joe said his thinking has changed on the assigning of hunters, he likes the prioritizing, and it would likely require hunters giving their best picks then we “assign and allocate accordingly.”

Paul Willard said assigning sites may be problematic.

Paul Holzman asked how sites would be assigned - and said realistically top six people may be happy, and you may need to do a draw from a hat or do partner hunt. Deer impact should be kept in mind in presentations to the Commission.

Ben, “I think we should try something different than previous years”.

Bob thanked everybody for a deep dive into the properties and distribution.

Monitoring techniques:

“Ten Tallest” was mentioned by Bob as a method. Tom asked about what time of year it can be done. It was mentioned that the Fall was a good time. Ben found forestry service protocol on-line. Bob said it sounds like there is interest and will invite those scientists to speak before DMS via zoom.

Dan Tracey was asked if he had any comments and he said he was all set. (1:18:01)

Bob would like to have a meeting immediately before next available meeting. Asked that list we have be forwarded the Commission and meet prior to July 1.

Tagging and impounding unauthorized was discussed. Paul Willard stated that stands on ConCom land that are not authorized can be collected. Bob stated stands have been removed in the past.

Bob Thanked DMS for all their good work. Tom and motion to adjourn Joe seconded and meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.