

DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Telephone (203) 563-0180  
Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOWN OF WILTON  
2017 NOV 15 A 9:50  
BY: LK

**Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2017**

**Committee members in attendance:** Mike Russnok, Chairman, Ben Couch, Steve White, Jeff Lapnow

**Staff in attendance:** Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.
- II. Russnok reviewed the deer harvest results posted on the CT DEEP website from September, October and November of this year and compared them with the results from 2016. Russnok explained the numbers seem comparable between years and warm weather may play a role in the harvest numbers being lower this year. Russnok reported Foley provided him with an update on the Homeowner Match program; four residents have requested to be matched with hunters and 3 of the 4 have confirmed the hunters are utilizing their property. Russnok described one hunter complaint of a trespasser in the SNEW land who was caught clearing vegetation on a game camera. Conklin confirmed the matter has been reported to the Wilton Police Department.

Conklin reported he emailed CT DEEP with a request for statistics or data regarding hunter safety and accidents in Connecticut but had not received a response. Russnok explained he asked Conklin to try to obtain recent data on hunter safety and accidents in Connecticut so the committee can respond to inquiries with facts. White asked if there have been any recent inquiries from the public. Russnok confirmed there have not been any specific inquiries however he has addressed concerns expressed by people on social media and the data would be useful in the future. Couch suggested the committee work to gather data about deer/vehicle accidents, Lyme disease infections, and ecosystem changes in order to measure the effectiveness of the Controlled Hunt.

- III. Russnok reviewed recent inquiries from residents regarding the location of areas being hunted as part of the Controlled Hunt. He suggested adding more details to the Deer Committee's website. Specifically to the Hunt Plan spreadsheet about property locations. White explained the Wilton Land Conservation Trust recently created a map of all of their properties for publication on their website. White confirmed footnotes added to the Hunt Plan would be better than a town-wide

map of parcels hunted because the footnotes will be less time consuming and expensive than drafting a map.

Couch asked for clarification on the purpose of publishing the additional information and if residents had safety concerns. Conklin confirmed he had received questions from several residents who were unfamiliar with open space locations being hunted on their street and they were looking for more details about specific parcels. Conklin further explained a resident on Chicken Street has expressed his concerns about the safety the controlled hunt taking place in his neighborhood. Conklin confirmed he emailed the resident the information he requested about the Controlled Hunt and notified the Wilton Land Conservation Trust that a concerned resident may be reaching out to them to start a dialog about hunting the Chicken Street parcels.

Couch and Lapnow both confirmed they were in favor of adding the footnotes to the Hunt Plan on the website along with an added note directing residents with questions to call the Director of Environmental Affairs because the personal service is valuable.

- IV. Russnok asked Conklin to include any draft minutes that must be approved for the next meeting. Couch motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm, Seconded by Lapnow, all in favor 4-0-0.