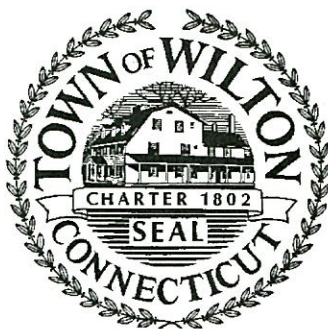
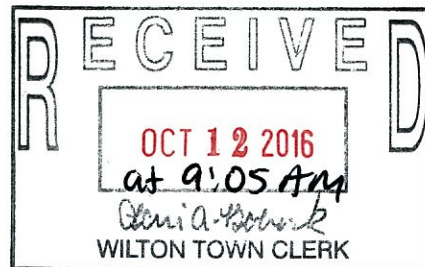


DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Telephone (203) 563-0180
Fax (203) 563-0284



Deer Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897



Committee members in attendance: Mike Russnok, Chairman, Donna Merrill, Scott MacQuarrie, Kevin Clark, Steve White

Staff in attendance: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs

- I. The meeting began at 6:32pm.
- II. MacQuarrie motioned to approve the draft minutes of July 12, 2016, Seconded by Merrill, all in favor 4-0-0.

Russnok motioned to approve the draft minutes of August 31, 2016, Seconded by Clark, all in favor 4-0-0.
- III. Russnok reviewed the Special Meeting of August 31, 2016 and noted some minor procedural changes that may streamline distributing hunter packets next year. He explained that some hunters did not receive a copy of the hunt plan in their packet and he will email a copy to everyone.

White arrived at the meeting at 6:38pm

Russnok reviewed the deer harvest numbers published by the CT DEEP for the month of September. Conklin confirmed the harvest numbers to date that were checked in to the Wilton check station. Conklin explained hunters have reported seeing more deer than in previous years, possibly due to the warm winter last year. He also noted that several new private property owners have offered there property to be included in the controlled hunt.

Russnok explained Merrill contacted the Aspetuck Land Trust (ALT) to request ALT land located in Wilton be included in the controlled hunt. Merrill elaborated the ALT approved to include three (3) parcels in the controlled hunt. Conklin provided GIS maps of the ALT parcels and suggested that they may not be suitable for hunting because they are landlocked and access to the parcels may be restricted. Russnok noted the ALT parcels closer to Quail Ridge Road would be

idea for hunting. Merrill confirmed she will meet with ALT to describe the limiting factors for hunting on the approved parcels and suggest the parcels closer to Quail Ridge Road be included in the controlled hunt.

White asked about the Deer Committee's goals and the keys to success in achieving those goals. Russnok reviewed the value in building relationships between the committee and owners of large tracts of open space land such as the ALT and how expanding the controlled hunt into those areas can improve the opportunity for hunters to reduce the deer population in Wilton. White asked if using White Buffalo is a good idea at this stage. Conklin described White Buffalo as a company that is contracted to carry out strategic controlled hunts. The group consensus was not to pursue working with White Buffalo at this time. MacQuarrie noted the value in continuing public education and outreach in the Conservation Commission newsletter.

Russnok asked White for an update on the homeowner match program. White confirmed seven (7) properties have been matched with hunters for the 2016 season.

IV. The meeting ended at 7:25pm