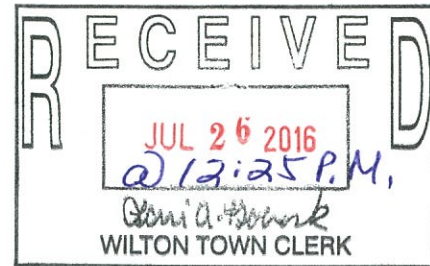


DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Telephone (203) 563-0180  
Fax (203) 563-0284



Deer Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2016

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897



In attendance: Mike Russnok, Scott MacQuarrie, Steve White, Donna Merrill, Loretta Foley (arrived at 6:45pm)

Absent: Kevin Clark (notified of intended absence)

Also in attendance: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs

- I. Russnok Motioned to call the meeting to order at 6:35pm, Seconded by Merrill and carried 4-0-0.
- II. MacQuarrie motioned to approve the minutes of March 8, 2016, Seconded by White and carried 3-0-1 (Merrill abstained because she did not attend the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting)
- III. 2016 Hunt Plan – Russnok circulated the 2015 Hunter Questionnaire summary. White asked about the possibility of hunting an 8 acre parcel of Land Trust property off of Seeley Road. Merrill noted she will discuss it with the Land Trust for 2016. Russnok reviewed each property hunted in 2015. A discussion ensued about hunting Slaughter Field and the possibility of increasing public access this year. A consensus was reached that Slaughter Field will not be hunted in January 2017. Tito Lane was also discussed and Russnok suggested continuing to hunt the parcel as it was in 2015. Wild Duck Reserve was discussed and will be hunted as it was in 2015.

Merrill suggested more private landowner outreach could be conducted to property owners surrounding Wild Duck Reserve and to land owners who own parcels greater than 30 acres. Conklin commented a public outreach project of that nature would take a large amount of staff time including GIS work that is not possible at this time because the environmental analyst position is currently vacant. Russnok noted that many hunters conduct their own private landowner outreach in order to obtain permission to hunt larger parcels.

Russnok suggested each of the commissioners could be assigned several hunters this season to regularly communicate during the hunt. The outreach could be

conducted before committee meetings so important information could be reported and discussed at the meetings. Further discussion ensued about the deer harvest from larger properties such as Comstock, Popes Pond and Slaughter Field.

Conklin presented a letter from Wilton resident John Kelly expressing interest in participating in the 2016 hunt.

White noted there were only a few participants in the homeowner match program in 2015. Russnok noted three years ago a large amount of time was invested in recruiting more homeowners for the program but many of the properties were unsuitable for hunting. He noted it was a large investment of time for a small return on the investment. Conklin mentioned focusing on the management of the hunters on the properties in the controlled hunt could be a benefit.

Conklin explained there will be a Deer Committee article in the Conservation Commission spring newsletter. The article will include the Deer Committee email address so residents who wish to contact the Committee to become part of the homeowner match program can do so. Merrill suggested possibly reaching out to Aspetuck Land Trust to inquire about hunting access on the land they own in the Town of Wilton this fall.

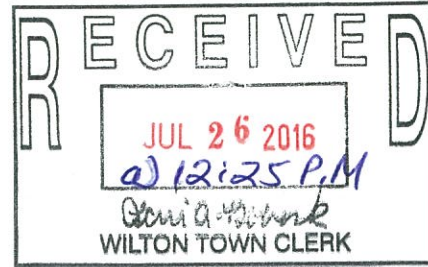
- IV. Status of Open Position - Russnok explained Ben Couch is still interested in the position. Conklin noted he will present the Deer Committee's recommendation to the Conservation Commission for Ben Couch to be nominated for the Deer Committee. If approved, the nomination will then be forwarded to the Board of Selectman for appointment.
- V. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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



Deer Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2016

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897



In attendance: Mike Russnok, Chairman, Donna Merrill, Loretta Foley, Scott MacQuarrie, and Kevin Clark

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- II. Mike Russnok made a Motion to approve the minutes from May 10, 2016 subject to an edit to note that Slaughter Field was agreed to not have any hunting in January of 2017 (draft minutes noted that no change from prior year was agreed to), Seconded by Scott MacQuarrie and passed 4-0-1. Loretta Foley abstained as she was not present at the meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- III. The Committee discussed the status of the open position on the Committee and Russnok noted that Ben Couch had completed the vetting process and is now a member of the Deer Committee. Russnok noted that due to a schedule conflict Ben was not able to attend this meeting.

The Committee then discussed the status of the 2016 hunt plan. Russnok noted that after the Conversation Commission mailing to all residents that 2 requests for a hunter had been received from Wilton homeowners. Russnok noted that 2 requests confirmed the approach for having the list for homeowner match limited to hunters that participate in the controlled hunt. Foley noted that the residents requesting a hunter were notified that the list of hunters was not yet final and that we will be in touch when finalized.

Russnok then noted that the forms for the controlled hunt were sent out to the hunters that participated in the program last year and that the expectation is that there will not be too many open spots for new hunters this year. Russnok noted that he will report back to the members of the Committee at the next meeting and schedule the kick off meeting for some time in late-August or early September.

Donna then noted that the Wilton Land Trust has approved the 2016 hunt plan but the Conservation Commission has not yet approved as it was not discussed at their last meeting. Donna noted that there is no meeting of the Conservation Commission in August, so she will try to obtain approvals in advance of the August meeting to ensure that the hunt is not adversely impacted.

The Committee then discussed assigning several hunters to each member of the Committee to get more regular updates on the hunt and agreed that the level of communication now, through information discussions, data gathered at Annex deer check, Facebook private group and data provided by the state, was sufficient and no further action agreed.

Russnok then noted that the FAQ's were updated to reflect the 2016 hunting dates but no other significant changes were thought to be necessary.

IV. With no further business, the committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.