

DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**Deer Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2012**

In attendance: Mike Russnok, Donna Merrill, Steve White, Loretta Foley, Kevin Clark,  
Frank Mabley

- I. Chairman Russnok called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- II. Minutes: Frank Mabley made a Motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2012, Seconded by Donna Merrill, and passed 6-0-0.
- III. Ongoing Business

- a. Mike Russnok provided an update on the controlled hunt. Many hunters are reporting fewer deer sightings. Virtually no activity in Sackett, sporadic harvests in City Lake, Belknap/Gregg is doing better than expected, and Comstock Property is okay. Hunters attribute the lower harvest to disruption in patterns due to storm debris and low acorn mass causes the deer to move to residential properties for food. Patricia Sesto reported that, to date, state data for all of Wilton shows 88 deer have been harvested via archery.

Sesto reported poachers in the Rice Preserve and this has been turned over to the State Conservation officer. The Officer Tim Fridinger also looked into two other hunter complaints. The first was a report of gunshots being fired shortly after sunset. The hunter denied the late shot. On balance, consideration had to be given to the neighbor who called in the complaint and a hunter in the area confirmed the time of the reported shot. A review of this information led to the dismissal of the hunter.

The second reported problem turned out not to be a problem. A hunter accessing his stand on private land parked near an entrance to Town Forest and walked down a long driveway that runs alongside the park boundary. The concerned resident thought the hunter was entering town land. After speaking with the hunter and the concerned resident, it was determined the hunter was not entering the Town Forest.

- b. Steve White reported on the land owner match efforts. To date, 48 properties have asked for a hunter. This is a similar, if not slightly lower number than

last year. Given the approaching end of the hunt season, any further requests for hunters will be held for next year.

Discussion ensued regarding the equity in hunter distribution. This could be answered through an exercise in mapping. Loretta Foley will look into this.

- c. Sesto reported no apparent bump in requests for hunters as a result of the Conservation Commission newsletter. The flyer and invitation in the “abutters” letter seemed to spark more interest.

No new public outreach is envisioned until the hunt has concluded and the work plan for next year is contemplated. The work plan should include a reevaluation of the park closure signs.

- IV. Mike Russnok made a Motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m., Seconded by Kevin Clark, and passed 6-0-0.