

Meeting notes from Deer Management Task Force meeting of Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 7pm.

Attending: George Meyer, Michael Van Clef, Carol Kleis, Phyllis Echternacht, Jim Gambino, Jim Burd, Mort Rosenthal, Francesca Calderone Steichen, Bill Cane, Denise Moser.

The meeting was held to review, edit and comment on the task force final report to the committee. Most everyone thought Mike did a great job and after several suggestions and editing comments, Mike will revise and send to Francesca for final editing of the executive summary.

Phyllis asked Mike what he thought the difference was between a naturalist and an environmentalist. Mike thought a third category of conservationist should be in the mix as well. Mike believes a naturalist is someone who looks at nature, such as birders, hikers, etc. A conservationist is someone who wants to mitigate the human impact on nature and an environmentalist is somebody working to protect the environment. Phyllis said she sees beauty everywhere and believes that nature is being engineered. Mike reiterated his hope to maintain nature with less human impact.

Carol asked Jim for his suggestions for presenting the report to the committee and he said to keep it short and sweet. The executive summary will contain all the goals and strategies as suggested by the attendees.

Also discussed was the suggestion of a permanent task force and if so approved what the task force would be responsible for. Mentioned was going to the state Fish and Wildlife to get zone 41 rules changed as well as establishing a deer management program such as one established by Montgomery Township and Hunterdon County. Pennsylvania's new rules were also mentioned. Mike said that if we show a robust level of access issues (as in keeping it at the top of our goals) it will help our case with Fish and Wildlife.

It was also suggested that we stress education of the community during the presentation to the committee as well as in the report. The issue of finances raised its ugly head as well. The need to establish a food bank venison donation fund to pay for butchering and to allow for the payment of police overtime for safety training (certification?) of the hunters that will have access to Hopewell Township public lands. The group believes \$5,000 for the butchering and \$500 for the police as an annual budget will be sufficient.

Bill and Denise are going to get on the agenda for the committee meeting scheduled for Monday, September 27 to submit the final plan.