

Meeting notes of the Deer Management Task Force, March 24, 2010.

Francesca informed the group that the Hopewell Valley News decided the name of the column, to be printed in the April 1<sup>st</sup> edition, would be the Deer Management Task Force. The editor also suggested we have Q&A column for the summer months.

The questionnaire was discussed and it was decided to mail the document to all taxpayers. Our currently small budget will be all but wiped out by this but in order to reach everyone it was decided to be the best method. We hope to still be able to give the option of doing the survey on Survey Monkey with the person entering their questionnaire numeric code in order to keep from duplications. Phyllis is still unhappy with the tone of the questionnaire, believing it is biased, and is against it being done. Denise commented that we tried to keep it as neutral as possible but to be able to get the information we need specific questions do need to be asked.

Mike VanClef and a representative from Fish and Wildlife are going out tomorrow night to field train for the upcoming deer count. Mike has purchased high intensity flashlights and rangefinders for the count that will take place March 30, March 31, and April 1 with a rain date of April 7.

The count will take place in places that are representative of the mix found in the valley, with 4 individuals: one driver, one person entering the data into a computer program, and two counters. A vehicle that is higher than a normal sedan must be used. Jim Burd offered his son's jeep which the group gladly accepted. Chief Meyer asked that Mike call the dispatch officer to let him/her know where we will be doing the count and what vehicle.

Mike plans on doing the count again in August to get a count of bucks to does to fawns.

Our lack of funding was discussed and a suggestion of finding grants was made. Mike didn't think there were any available but would look at the USDA site. Francesca mentioned that she and Bill could go knock on corporate doors for funding.

Denise mentioned that she thought our group could help the Valley in their sustainability efforts via the Hopewell Valley Green Futures group. There is a category in Sustainable Jersey called Wildlife Interaction Plan and from a cursory review our group is doing everything necessary to qualify.

Some suggestions for the website: our photograph which was taken at the end of this meeting, the deer count, links to other helpful sites, various statistical charts we have developed and the articles we are writing.

George Meyer and Fran will be writing the column on deer crashes.

Jim Gambino and Mike VanClef are working on the deer count column which will incorporate the count made in March and April.

The next meeting is planned for April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.