

Hopewell Township Deer Management Advisory Committee

Minutes – July 27, 2011

Attending:

Jim Gambino

George Kerr

Chuck Noona

Robert Miller

Mort Rosenthal

Mike VanClef

Bill Kane

Jim Burd

John Piepsak

Francesca Calderone-Steichen

Denise Moser

The meeting began at 8:00pm. Jim Burd introduced John Piepsak, Master Gardener, as the newest member of the committee.

Nora Sirbaugh, representing the Environmental Committee, gave a short presentation of the draft ordinance establishing standards for tree and woodland stewardship. The ordinance is designed to protect forests and give a measured approach to tree removal.

Chuck Noona introduced Bruce Perone, the chair of the Montgomery Township Wildlife Management Committee. Bruce gave the committee a presentation of how Montgomery's committee came to be and how it is now run. There are currently 15 properties, about 1000 acres, currently in the deer culling program; approximately 95 hunters certified to hunt. The hunters must go to an orientation session, which Fish and Game also attend, before they can hunt, have \$1 million worth of liability insurance which they can get for a nominal amount from the Sportsman Hunters Federation. He stressed the need for more hunters.

Depending on the size of the hunted property, either shotgun or bow is used. Donated venison is stored in a cooler at the Municipal building and brought to a butcher once a week. The butcher is selected by a bid process. When the hunt first started it cost the township \$316 a deer; now the fees charged, \$100 a hunter, cover most of the costs.

Mike VanClef introduced 2 hunters that hunt on FOHVOS property, Jeff Regan and Kip from Pennington (did not get his last name). After a brief discussion, it was decided that Bill Cane and Mike would look into getting jointly owned FOHVOS/Hopewell Township land opened for hunting this year as a pilot.

Francesca Calderone-Steichen stated that it is appropriate for the committee to get all the information we possibly can in order to develop a good, quality deer management. The committee members discussed having Dr. Anthony DiNicola the retired head of White Buffalo and a wildlife biology expert, come to a future meeting. A decision was postponed until we get advice from the Township.

Four committee members will be attending a deer management seminar on Thursday, July 28, at Duke Farms.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2011 at 8pm in the Township Municipal Building.