

September 8, 2011

**DRAFT**

**Municipal Ordinance for Deer Management Advisory Committee**

**9-9 WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT ON MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PROPERTY.**

The hunting, shooting, killing and removal of white-tailed deer shall be allowed solely for the purpose of reducing and managing the Township's deer population and only in accordance with the following provisions, and shall otherwise be prohibited in any Township park or open space.

- a. *Permit Required.* No person shall hunt, shoot, kill or remove deer from any park or open space, or carry or possess firearms of any description in which loaded or blank cartridges may be used, or air guns, spring guns, bows, slings or any other form of weapon potentially dangerous to wildlife and human safety, unless that person has first obtained a municipal deer management permit for such activity.
- b. *Dates and Locations for Hunting.* The number of permits issued each year, the properties for which the permits are issued and the dates on which those properties may be hunted shall be determined annually by resolution of the Township Committee. A press release and/or notice informing the public of said designated dates and locations shall be published on the Township's website and in the Township's newsletter and shall be submitted to the local newspaper of Hopewell Township for publication.
- c. *Application Process.* A permit shall be obtained by application to the Clerk of Hopewell Township, which application shall contain the following:
  1. The name and address and phone number of the applicant.
  2. The applicant's date of birth. Applicants must be eighteen (18) years of age or older to be eligible for a municipal deer management permit.
  3. The applicant's social security number.
  4. The applicant's license plate number, year, make, model and color.
  5. Current firearm or bow and arrow hunting license number, or proof of application for same and participation in a State hunter education course.
  6. A photocopy of any applicable State permits (fall and winter bow, permit shotgun or muzzleloader rifle).
  7. A signed certification that the applicant is not prohibited by law from possessing a firearm and has not been convicted of any felonies. Any applicant who is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm or who has been convicted of a felony shall not be eligible for a permit.
  8. A release authorizing the Township to conduct a background check for violations of the New Jersey Fish and Game Code, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5 et seq., and for violations of any local regulations pertaining to parks or to hunting. Any applicant who has violated any provision of the Fish and Game Code or violated any local regulation pertaining to parks or to hunting within ten (10) years of the date of the application shall not be eligible for a permit.

9. A copy of a certificate of insurance confirming general liability insurance with coverage with combined single limits for bodily injury and property damage of at least one million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars per single occurrence and one million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars annual aggregate.

10. The property for which a permit is sought

Applications shall be available in the Township Clerk's office. Prior to any permits being issued, all applications will be approved by the Hopewell Township Police Department for accuracy of information supplied and for compliance with the requirements set forth herein. All applications must be submitted in person by the applicant. Applications not submitted in person will not be processed.

- d. *Hunter Education and Safety Course.* Prior to receiving a permit, each applicant shall be required to complete the Township's site-specific hunter education and safety course.
- e. *Eligibility for Permit.* Permits shall be available to any resident of the State of New Jersey except Hopewell Township employees who are involved in the administration and/or enforcement of this section. Permits shall be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the following limitations:
1. For the first hunting season, hunters will be selected on a first come, first served basis.
  2. In subsequent years, there shall be two (2) drawings for permits. The first drawing shall be open only to those past hunters who meet the following eligibility requirements and who are applying to hunt the same property for which they were previously issued a permit;
    - (a) For 2011-2012 municipal deer management permits only, hunters (permittees), who during the 2010-2011 season, harvested one (1) or more antlerless deer and who otherwise meet all other eligibility requirements set forth in this section.
    - (b) For all subsequent municipal deer management permits, hunters, who have harvested two (2) or more antlerless deer if hunting with a bow or three (3) or more antlerless deer if hunting with a firearm, and who otherwise meet all eligibility requirements set forth in this section.
- These permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. A second and subsequent drawing will be held for all remaining permits. This drawing shall be open to anyone from the State of New Jersey who meets the eligibility requirements set forth in this section. These permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.
- f. *Rules and Regulations.* The following rules and regulations shall apply to any permit issued either to individuals or groups of individuals:
1. Prior to any hunting activities taking place, permittees shall post warning signs along the boundaries of the properties for which they have received a permit (boundary signs will be provided by the Township) and the Township shall post warning signs at the entrances to all properties for which permits have been issued.
  2. Only portable stands that do not harm the trees shall be permitted. All stands shall be removed no later than fifteen (15) days following the expiration of the permit.

3. All deer must be checked in at a State-approved check-in station.
4. All permits shall be site-specific and nontransferable. Permittees shall be authorized to hunt only the property for which they have been issued a permit and shall be responsible for knowing where they are at all times. Each permittee shall be required to display his or her permit prominently when engaging in hunting activities. Vehicle permits must also be displayed on the front left side of the dashboard of the vehicle and carry their assigned permit on their person while on Township property on license holder.
5. Deer drives shall be allowed, subject to the following limitations:
  - (a) Only permittees may drive deer.
  - (b) No person shall carry a weapon of any kind while driving deer.
6. Motorized vehicles shall be restricted to public roads and designated parking areas.
7. Target practice is strictly prohibited. Discharge of a crossbow is not considered target practice. A field target such as the Rinehart RFT is recommended to discharge crossbows.
8. All season dates and bag limits designated by the State of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Council for deer management zones 12 and 14 and 41 shall apply.
9. Only white-tailed deer may be hunted; the hunting, shooting, killing, pursuit or removal of any other wildlife is strictly prohibited.

In addition, any permit issued by the Township to individuals may contain such additional conditions as the Program Director of the Deer Management Program or the Chief of Police of the Township of Hopewell determines are reasonably required to ensure the safety of Hopewell's residents, including but not limited to limiting the days and times during which the permittees may hunt thereon and restricting the areas within the parks or open spaces on which the permittees may hunt.

- g. *Duration of Permit.* Permits shall be valid only during the applicable State-approved deer hunting seasons, as said dates may be amended from time to time by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Council.
- h. *Permit Fees.* To defray increased maintenance, materials, labor and administrative costs incurred by the Township in connection with its deer management program, a permit fee of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars is herewith established. Any permit fees collected that are not needed to defray the costs of administering the program, including venison donation, shall be deposited into the Township's Open Space Fund and dedicated to the acquisition or maintenance of open space.
- i. *Revocation of Permit.* The Township Administrator, upon the advice and recommendation of the Program Director of the Deer Management Program and the Chief of Police of the Township of Hopewell, shall be authorized to revoke a permit issued hereunder at any time if the safety of any persons or the safety of personal property, including that of the Township of Hopewell, is threatened as a result of the activity authorized by the permit. Violations by any permittee of any applicable State or local rules and regulations pertaining to hunting or use of parkland shall also cause the permit to be revoked. Where such permit has been revoked or where persons or personal property are endangered as set forth above, the Program Director of the Deer Management Program or the Chief of Police is authorized to require that such person

or persons leave the park area immediately and take all steps necessary to eliminate the condition which endangers persons or personal property.

- j. *Violations and Penalties.* All State and local regulations pertaining to parks and to hunting shall remain in full force and effect and nothing herein shall be construed to abrogate same. Violation of this section, any special condition or any applicable State or local regulation will result in the immediate loss of hunting privileges on the property and will subject the hunter to any applicable penalties, including but not limited to the General Penalties set forth in Section ( ) of this Code.
- k. *Enforcement.* The provisions of this section and provisions of any rules and regulations adopted by the Township Committee shall be enforced by the Police Department of the Township of Hopewell.
- l. The Program Director of the Deer Management Program will be decided upon by the Township Committee in conjunction with the Deer Management Advisory Committee.  
**(Ord. #)**

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