

Carlisle Deer Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020
Carlisle Town Hall, Nickles Room, 7:00 PM

Committee members present: Jonathan DeKock (Chair), Dejan (Dan) Bojanic, Todd Thorsen, John Keating; Absent: Alex Parra, Barney Arnold, Andrew Corwin

Chair Jonathan DeKock opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of meeting minutes

Minutes of the December 20, 2019 meeting were approved (4-0-0)

Agenda Item 2: Discuss creation of the annual report

(Jonathan DeKock)

- Recommendation to write an additional annual report for the Deer Committee in addition to the Deer Agent report
- Should include input from public input sessions, information from Dr. Allen Rutberg's talk, the committee meet and greet held in the Fall (2019), as well as items like the endorsement from the Carlisle Land Stewardship committee.

Jonathan DeKock to draft and committee members to edit ahead of February meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Discuss input for open space and recreation plan

- Letter received from David Freedman, chair of the Open Space and Recreation Plan committee. His committee would like input covering progress on past initiatives and seven-year forward-looking action plan from the Deer Committee.
- Jonathan DeKock would like to filter draft responses through the Deer Agent prior to the February meeting to have agent address specific questions. The committee should look through the Freedman document and send comments to Jonathan.

Agenda Item 4: Review of yearly timeline for Deer Committee activities

- Dejan Bojanic circulated a spreadsheet ahead of this meeting roughing out approximate action item dates to prepare for the 2020 hunt.

(Jonathan DeKock)

- Suggestion to include additional activities to make it an annual calendar (i.e. writing of the Deer Agent report. All members should read through the spreadsheet ahead of the February meeting to finalize plan.

Agenda Item 5: Discuss ideas for increasing the yearly deer harvest in Carlisle

(Jonathan DeKock - task lead)

- Two letters could be sent out. The first could go to the abutters of the Town land parcels used for the deer hunt, asking them if they would consider bow hunting within 500 feet of their property, but still on Town land. The second could go to larger land owners (>5 acres) to see if they would allow bow hunting on their properties. Hunting on these larger parcels would be independent of the bow hunt on Town land. Additionally, some of these private properties have conservation restrictions that would need to be addressed.

(Dejan Bojanic)

- Recommendation to use Sign-up Genius for the booking of hunt parking spaces. The occupancy of the parking spaces was low in Fall 2019. Pre-booking time slots for parking would increase occupancy and potentially use efficiency.
- Recommendation to extend bow hunting season on Town land through December 31, aligning with the Mass Wildlife (state) season. For this revision, Jonathan DeKock added an additional recommendation that hunter eviction rules should be revised to ensure that no firearms are used on Town land during the extended season, as the second half of the season statewide permits deer hunting with a shotgun or primitive firearm.
- Recommendation to give hunt parcel preference to hunters abutting parcels, as it would eliminate the need for a parking space and would make it easier to increase hunt time for the individual.
- Recommendation to identify new Town parcels to hunt. Jonathan DeKock, as a follow up, establishing criteria to remove parcels from the hunt.

(John Keating)

- Recommendation to spend more time scouting/ looking for evidence of deer ahead of parcel determination/ assignment

(Jonathan DeKock)

- Perhaps we could set up a parcel rotation system, increasing the number of hunters in one parcel to take more deer from it during the season.
- Per discussions with the Police chief, the potential exists for adding more parking spots on public ways abutting Town land in places that would not obstruct traffic.
- In terms of Town hunt parcels, we don't have much out West. The trailhead on Hart Pond Rd. has a single parking spot and the trailhead on Hanover Rd. has two. In the center of Town, the DPW land north of Conant is a possibility.
- Increasing the number of hunters is definitely something the committee should consider to get more deer. We need to prioritize the waitlist, which currently has 15 people).

(Dejan Bojanic)

- Expressed opposition to more than one tree stand, as it promotes environmental clutter and the potential for unauthorized hunters to use a tree stand. Jonathan DeKock suggested that two hunters could share a tree stand to maximize occupancy during the season.

(Jonathan DeKock)

- Send ideas to John Keating. The top three will be prioritized at the February meeting.

Agenda Item 6: **Succession planning**

(Jonathan DeKock)

- Per discussions with the Chief of Police in Carlisle, , the Chief does not believe that an Officer should be a member of the Deer Committee. As such, the committee should ask the Board of Selectmen to remove the police from the committee and either add an additional member or reduce the committee size by one, as we need an odd number of people on the committee. The member could be another hunter or a non-hunter citizen-at-large. The topic will be discussed at the February meeting to get a recommendation for the Board of Selectmen.

(Dejan Bojanic)

- No major updates on the Deer Agent succession. Two individuals are under consideration. It is always an option to have a Deer Agent and a Deputy Agent.

Agenda Item 7: **CORI process**

(Jonathan DeKock)

- The Carlisle Public School has a CORI check every three years for an individual. We could do the same for hunters. The Town does not pay a fee for CORI.
- Tim Goddard reviews the CORI report, making the pass/fail decision, and the Police Chief reviews any flags. The pass/fail gets reported to the Deer Committee for the hunters.
- Recommending adopting the three-year CORI check used by the school. Will follow up with the school to get exact wording.

Agenda Item 8: **Community Input**

Jeannie Geneczko:

- Distributed paper copy of Dr. Rutberg slides
 - Will send electronic copy to Mary Hopkins
- Request for October 9, 2019 minutes, as they have not been posted online yet.
- Concerned with the cost of the hunt to the town. Would like numbers that include burdened salaries.
- CORI checks: What is the criteria for pass/fail?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Todd Thorsen