

**Westport, CT Deer Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday March 28, 7:30PM**

Commenced: 7:40PM

Adjourned: 9:20 PM

In attendance:

Domenico Antonelli

Ben Delpolyi

Alan Eugley

Peter Knight

Michele Lamothe

Linda McCracken

James McDonald

Susan Pike

Minutes:

1. Review of 3.13.2012 minutes. Minutes were approved with one change regarding the committee's discussion of non-lethal focus.
2. Chairperson Jim McDonald reported to the committee that the First Selectman had contacted him and reversed his earlier decision concerning lethal means of deer population control. He indicated that the committee may now include culling in their discussions and recommendations based on recent conversations with RTM members. The current Westport No-Hunting Ordinance must still be upheld, however.
3. The First Selectman also notified Chairperson, Jim McDonald that emails concerning this matter between committee members were at risk for FOI violations. The committee requested guidelines and clarification regarding FOI regulations. Peter Knight agreed to contact Gail Kelly and request guidelines as well as requesting her attendance at the next meeting to answer questions and clarify the guidelines.
4. Fairfield County Deer Management Alliance – Susan Pike and Alan Eugley reported their observations of the March 19th Alliance meeting. Discussion followed about whether Westport should remain a member. The next Alliance meeting is June 11th; it was decided to table this discussion until closer to the next meeting date.
5. The committee agreed in future meetings that new business would be discussed after old business discussions were complete or tabled.
6. Ben Delpolyi summarized results of an ongoing Cornell University research project concerning lethal vs non-lethal deer control. Unfortunately, there was no data concerning the impact on Lyme or other tick borne diseases.
7. Deer related problems as perceived by the public were determined to be: 1. Lyme & other tick-borne disease, 2. destruction of landscaping, 3. motor vehicle accidents and 4. deforestation.
8. The committee reviewed the compiled list of possible topics of study for the committee moving forward and broke it down into 5 major topics of study:
 - a. Methods of tracking the incidence of Lyme and other tick-borne disease in Westport.

b. Public education which included general knowledge of Lyme and other tick borne diseases, personal protection against ticks and Lyme, protection of landscaping (personal property as well as Westport town owned property) and prevention of deer-related vehicle accidents. School curriculums and the Westport-Weston Health District website were possible sources of education for residents.

c. Affordable methods of measuring and tracking the Westport deer population (perceptions vs impacts vs actual deer counts)

d. Methods of deer population control

e. Methods of tick control with a focus on methods that would be minimally toxic to residents, wildlife and the environment.

9. Subcommittees were formed to focus on each of these topics; the members of each subcommittee are as follows:

a. Alan, Linda & Michele

b. Susan, Linda & Dom

c. Ben, Linda, Jim & Dom

d. Peter, Michele, Ben & Alan

e. Jim, Michele & Linda

Members of the subcommittees would begin researching their various topics prior to the next committee meeting.

10. Date for next committee meeting: Wednesday April 25, 7:30 PM; room 309.