

**Westport, CT Deer Management Committee
Deer Population Control Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday June 13, 2012, 7:30 Town Hall**

Commenced: 7:40

Adjourned: 8:40

In attendance:

Peter Knight

Michele Lamothe

Alan Eugley

Ben Delpolyi

Minutes:

1. Ben Delpolyi was asked and agreed to be Chairman, with the stipulation that the other members of the subcommittee would be responsible for taking and reporting minutes. It was agreed that the duty for taking minutes would rotate and Alan would take responsibility for this meeting.
2. Minutes should be sent to Pat Scully at pscully@Westportct.gov.
3. Peter Knight read from a CT brochure the different methods listed for controlling deer populations, which were:
 - a. Birth control
 - b. Trap and relocate
 - c. Fencing and deterrents
 - d. Sharp Shooting
 - e. Regulated Hunting
 - f. Controlled Hunting (specialized rules for hunting on a willing owner's land)
4. It was stated that deer generally have a range of 100 - 300 acres.
5. The question was raised if there are a few open areas in Westport that would hold a large proportion of the town's deer.
6. Alan suggested that the committee try to find various ways to make Westport inhospitable to deer.
7. Fencing deer out of attractive habitats was suggested.
8. Ben mentioned an infrared aerial photography service that can locate and count all of the deer in town accurately. It is usually done in Winter and he has raised this in another subcommittee.
9. The subcommittee agreed to research the following topics with a member assigned to each:
 - a. Impact of hunting on deer populations in other towns (Peter)
 - b. Methods of trapping deer (Ben)
 - c. Sterilization options and practices (Michele)
 - d. Identification of major open spaces within Westport
10. Ben opened the floor for comments from the public, which included the following:
 - a. "Inhospitable" is a useful word and shows an approach to the problem that everyone can support.
 - b. Westport has many creative residents who can be encouraged to submit ideas for making properties less attractive to deer.
 - c. The town could provide a property tax rebate for good landscaping practices.
 - d. Fencing to keep deer out of an area might be problematic for other animals.
 - e. Documents showing that Fairfield County has a relatively low level of Lyme Disease per person were offered. Ben pointed out that any documents needed to be submitted to Pat Scully.
11. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be Wednesday July 18, 7:30 Town Hall