

**Westport, CT Deer Management Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2013
Room 102, Westport Town Hall**

Sub-committee “D” – Deer Population Control

In attendance:

Ben Delpolyi, sub-committee Chair

Alan Eugley

Peter Knight

Michele Lamothe

and

Susan Pike, Committee Chair

Minutes

1. **Ben Delpolyi**, Chairman, opened the meeting at 6.30 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the December 3, 2012, meeting having been circulated previously, were approved unanimously.
3. Ben began the meeting by observing that, from the perspective of deer population control, we had not fully discussed the issue of hunting and culling. He had conducted an Internet search and noted that success statistics were not available on the Alliance website nor, indeed, on the Princeton Township website that had an active culling program. Frustration in determining the facts, be they Lyme disease related, deer vehicle accidents (DVA's), environmental or hunting/culling was a common characteristic of the deer control issue. An exception was Montgomery County, Md., where an active program of managed hunts had been practiced since 1996 and police-run sharp shoots and since 1999. The DVA statistics suggested that these measures had resulted in stabilization, even if not reduction, of the population.
4. **Peter Knight** then reported that he had contacted Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo and had apprised him of the Committee's leanings. Specifically, Peter had asked if DeNicola would come to Westport (and, if so, how much he would charge), to review the Town's physical layout and advise if a sharpshoot would be feasible and what results might be expected. DeNicola had responded that he knew Westport well and could study its layout on Google maps; there was no place they could not sharpshoot – it all depended on political and homeowner support; he was “extremely skeptical” of any FLIR derived data it would at best provide a minimum count; and, finally, Westport “would not see a 50% reduction in 5 years” if we spent \$1 million on a fertility control program.

Peter reiterated his view that there would be neither meaningful political or homeowner support without a clear indication that meaningful deer control was favored by a significant majority of the Town population and, in his view, this could only be established with a properly conducted survey.

5. **Michele Lamothe** suggested that an invitation to Dr. Rotberg to present to the committee on the PZP program should be deferred until after the FLIR count had taken place. This was set to go ahead once the weather (cold) made its result optimal. Colin Kelly had indicated he would contribute by mapping the results on the Town survey maps.

The issues of a review of the no hunting ordinance and a survey remained unsupported. The sub-committee's work would be complete once the FLIR flyover had been completed and a recommendation with respect to the PZP program had been finalized.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7.33 p.m.

Peter Knight
Secretary (by rote)