

Westport, CT Deer Management Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2013, 7:30PM, Rm 309, Westport Town Hall

Commenced: 7:39PM, Adjourned: 9:49 PM

The following members were in attendance: Susan Pike, Michele Lamothe, Ben Deipolyi & Linda McCracken; Domenico Antonelli, Peter Knight and Alan Eugley were absent.

Minutes:

1. 6.20.13 minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing and editing the final draft of the report for submission to the First Selectman
3. Since Peter was unable to attend tonight's meeting, he had emailed his fellow committee members advising that he would not be revising the "minority report" which had been submitted previously and again requested that it be submitted with the committee's report. The attending committee members further discussed the issue as follows:
 - Some members reiterated their feeling that the report as it stands was demeaning to the remainder of the committee
 - The issue of fairness was discussed. Several committee members felt that if they had a dissenting opinion they would want it reflected in the report but would expect their opinions to be backed up by science that could be included in the report.
 - The real objection to Peter's report is that it is an editorial rather than a report with facts and data to back up a differing opinion. The committee felt that they had been given a responsibility when appointed to the committee to have an open mind on the subject, to take the time to research the topic thoroughly, and to thoroughly and independently review the available data on the subject and make conclusions and recommendations that specifically applied to Westport. A hypothetical situation was suggested: "What if instead of spending 17 months amassing and evaluating data on the subject, all 7 committee members had instead each submitted an editorial based on their opinions on the subject and in turn, submitted that report to the First Selectman". All members in attendance agreed that would have wholly abdicated the responsibilities charged to them. The 4 members in attendance agreed that to allow even one member of the committee to do this would be irresponsible. The 4 members in attendance agreed to uphold the previous vote which would not allow for personal editorials to be included in the report.
4. The education committee would meet to finalize the outstanding education section (Susan, Linda, Dom & Michele). The meeting was scheduled for Tuesday July 9. All edits discussed at tonight's meeting and any edits from the education committee meeting would be entered into the latest draft by Susan and distributed to the members prior to the next full meeting. Dom had been contacted about finalizing the DVA information.
5. The next committee meeting was scheduled for 7:30, Tuesday July 16, room TBA.

Michele Lamothe
Secretary
7/14/13