

Approved Minutes of the 2-18--09 Meeting Of The New Canaan Deer Committee

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM by Ruth Smithers the Committee Chairperson. David Harvey, Rick Stecher, Richard Rose and John Erdmann were present; Russ Kinne, Mary Ann Kleinschmitt, John Knoblock, Charles Bryk and George Russell were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting were not available. Dave Harvey had taken the meeting notes, typed up the Draft and attempted to e-mail them in, yet they apparently did not arrive. He will resend them and they'll be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mary Ann Kleinschmitt had given Ruth an update on the number of deer killed in New Canaan in 2008 and the number of deer killed in New Canaan thus far this year. She reported that there have been 2 deer killed year to date and 72 killed as of year's end 2008.

Ruth read an excellent letter that had appeared in the *Darien Times* Op Ed page Feb 12, 2009. The letter was sent to Ruth via E-mail from Kent Haydock, the Chair of the Darien Deer Management Committee. It addressed the very successful Deer Hunt that Darien had during the 2008 – 2009 hunting season, and discussed the positive ramifications of controlling the deer herd size in Darien.

The letter provides information about the effects that a controlled hunt has on the population and subsequent health of the deer herd and how that translates into better management of the herd and human health in Darien.

Rick Stecher suggested that the New Canaan Deer Committee obtain permission to have the letter published in the *New Canaan Advertiser* so New Canaan residents might appreciate another Town's point of view.

The Committee discussed the Deer Hunt that Stamford had begun, which lasted three days before an animal rights group got the City to stop the hunt. It is interesting to note how successful the Darien Hunt was and the positive aspects discussed in the letter mentioned above, and the fact that Stamford wasn't able to complete it's hunt and realize the same benefits for the health of the Deer Herd and the general public in Stamford.

Ruth read an article about the contribution of harvested Deer Meat to the various food Pantries and Soup Kitchens in Connecticut that appeared in *the New York Times* Feb. 8th Connecticut section.

Ruth would like the Committee to arrange to have more State Officials be invited to come in and give presentations to the Committee and spectators regarding topics like Lyme Disease and other Tick borne diseases. She wants to increase the number of New Canaan Citizens that understand the need, and will support our efforts, to control the number of deer in New Canaan.

There was a brief discussion of having an educational Deer Exclusion Area set up to demonstrate what happens when deer are not allowed to destroy the understory through browsing. The New Canaan Nature Center was mentioned as a possible location for the demonstration. Ruth will check with the Town.

There was also a discussion about the threat of Coyote in Town and that the Committee should educate the Town's Citizens about that threat as well as that of excessively large numbers of Deer.

Ruth adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM

Next Meeting: March 25, 2009

Respectfully Submitted by Rick Stecher
Secretary