

Minutes of the 3-25--09 Meeting Of The New Canaan Deer Committee

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Ruth Smithers the Committee Chairperson., Rick Stecher, Richard Rose, Bill Knoblock, and George Russell were present; Charles Bryk, David Harvey, Mary Ann Kleinschmitt, Russ Kinne and John Erdmann were absent.

The minutes of the last two meetings were reviewed and approved with just minor corrections.

Mary Ann Kleinschmitt had given Ruth an update on the number of deer killed by motor vehicle in New Canaan through 3/21 this year. She reported that there have been 5 deer killed year to date due to motor vehicle accidents.

There has been continuing conversations between Mary Ann and Casey (SNEW) regarding future controlled hunts on the SNEW owned reservoir property.

It has been recommended that the agreement between The New Canaan Deer Committee and SNEW be modified to allow three hunters to be on the New Canaan reservoir property three times a week to facilitate “triangulation” between hunters to increase the effectiveness of the controlled hunt.

Ruth read a letter she had sent to Tom Villa regarding future hunts. Bill Knoblock will follow up with Tom Villa.

Bill asked Ruth about the status of Aquarian owned reservoir properties in lower Fairfield County. These include the Ponus Ridge and Wilton reservoirs. The Committee will follow up on this inquiry.

Ruth discussed the “Under The Skin” movie which is hopefully to be aired at the New Canaan Library. Ruth would like to have the movie shown under the auspices of the Deer Committee as an educational outreach program.

Ruth discussed visiting Judy Neville and looking at Deer Committee archival materials.

Deer Crossing signs are put up by DEP.

Ruth received a letter from David Shugarts of the Newtown Lyme Disease Task Force regarding a recent aerial survey taken of lower Fairfield County by the DEP. There are approximately 60 to 65 deer per square mile in the Stamford, Greenwich, and New Canaan area. This is many times the carrying capacity of the environment. The survey information came from Howard Kilpatrick of the DEP.

The numbers are judged to be fairly accurate because the members of the herds tend to group or bunch together in march in preparations for Spring birthing season.

Rick Stecher discussed his conversation with the Director of the New Canaan Nature Center regarding establishing an educational “exclusionary area” to demonstrate what happens when deer are prevented from destroying the indigenous under-growth. Apparently there had been an earlier discussions that had been rejected on the part of the Nature Center due to budgetary considerations. Rick believed that the Nature Center would consider such a project if funding was made available. Ruth will discuss the matter with the First Selectman and Town Council.

Bill Knoblock mentioned the on-going Mianus River Deer Study. He will see if the graduate student / PhD candidate would make a presentation to the Deer Committee.

Ruth adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM

Next Meeting: April 22, 2009 @ 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Rick Stecher
Secretary