

Minutes of the 9-16--09 Meeting Of The New Canaan Deer Committee

The meeting was called to order at 5:43 PM by Ruth Smithers the Committee Chairperson., Rick Stecher, Richard Rose, Bill Knoblock, George Russell, Charles Bryk , Maryann Kleinschmitt, and John Erdmann were present; David Harvey, Russ Kinne and were absent.

The minutes of the last meeting was reviewed and approved.

Maryann Kleinschmitt presented an update on the number of deer killed by motor vehicle in New Canaan through 8-14 of this year. She reported that there have been 25 deer killed year to date due to motor vehicle accidents. She mentioned that some 41 deer had been killed along the “3 New Canaan exits” of the Merritt Parkway in all of 2008; and she is waiting for the final 2009 numbers to be released in January 2010.

Deer hunting season opened September 15th.

Ruth read a couple of articles about controlled deer hunts in other towns that provided explanations of the need for controlled harvest of deer herds.

There has been continuing conversations between Mary Ann and Casey (SNEW) regarding the controlled hunts on the SNEW owned reservoir property. There will be 3 hunters allowed on the New Canaan Reservoir Property at a time. Mary Ann is awaiting a final list of the vetted hunters who will be given permission to hunt that particular property under close supervision of Maryann and the New Canaan Police. It has been determined that allowing three hunters to be on the New Canaan reservoir property to facilitate “triangulation” between hunters to increase the effectiveness of the controlled hunt.

Three “off the road” parking spaces have been made available for the hunters on SNEW property.

There are three hunters allowed on the Audubon Property located at Rosebrook and Carter.

Mary Ann believes that there are approximately 8 deer on the Transfer Station property. She is in the process of getting permission and signatures of Highway Department-Transfer Station Managers plus First Selectman Jeb Walker, to allow hunting on the Transfer Station property under strict supervision.

Ruth Smithers discussed her conversation with Laura Heckman, 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.

Ruth is going to attend the upcoming NCNC Board Of Directors Meeting in hopes of addressing them directly. She asked that any available Deer Committee members also attend the Board Meeting to show their support.

Ruth expressed frustration over the lack of support for such a worthwhile educational project and is hopeful that she may reverse that by directly discussing the merits of such with the NCNC Board of Directors.

Rick Stecher mentioned that the Deer Committee can further support the educational value of an enclosure demonstration project by offering to do follow-up presentations / lectures at the Nature Center.

The Deer Committee expressed their gratitude to Mary Ann Kleinschmitt for all the excellent work she has done coordinating the controlled hunts in Town

Ruth adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM

Next Meeting: October 21 @ 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Rick Stecher
Secretary