



**CITY OF DELAFIELD
MEETING MINUTES
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Chair: Jacob Berg
Members: Larry Fehrm, Danielle Henry, Jim Renn, Jim Marsh, Tim Turnock, Gene Olson*

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

6:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers
500 Genesee St.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Berg called the Deer Management Committee meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Present

Jacob Berg, PWC Rep. (Chairperson)
Larry Fehrm, Promo & Tour Rep.
Jim Renn
Jim Marsh
Danielle Henry

Absent

Tim Turnock, Park & Rec. Rep
Gene Olson

4. Approve minutes of January 10, 2022

Motion by Fehrm, seconded by Henry, to approve [01/10/2022](#), Deer Management Committee meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Citizen's Comments

Wayne Dehn, 3479 Broken Bow Trail, Delafield – Dehn gave a brief history of how this committee was started several years ago. He stated prior to the committee, resident Mary Lou Qualler was paying the city \$8,000 to take out deer on her property via Sharpshooters. The city later put \$8,000 in the budget to take out 20 deer. Shortly after an ariel survey was done and found there were about 45-50 deer per square mile. Over 780 hundred deer were counted just in the city limits. Spending \$8,000 to take out 20 deer didn't seem cost effective. Being a deer hunter, Dehn suggested this program be started. He stated the first year they took out approximately 80 deer, the second year approximately 120. Dehn went on to discuss he believes there needs to be changes with the current program. He discussed Act 71 which the state passed in 2013 – Municipalities cannot pass legislation restricting bow hunting, anywhere except but only for safety reasons with the primary purpose of the of the rule is to promote public health or safety. Dehn stated (when looking at how our code was written) he was against it – no shooting within 100 yards of a building – cities are allowed to pass that as a safety issue – but it also says that all arrows and bows must be shot toward the ground and not leave your property. For example, specifically the Town of Delafield, just follows Act 71, simply what the state law states and didn't pass anything more encumbering. He believes we lose a lot of protentional people that would allow bow hunting on their property because of the 100 yard rules. He stated the argument against that is we are more populated; however, he disagrees as you're shooting only on your property, from an elevated position toward the ground. In the last 24 years there have been 1,026 hunting accidents and only 17 have been with a bow or arrow –

none in the last five years. He stated chances of anyone actually getting hurt bow hunting within the city is really low. He stated in all his research he found the only reason people are against it is because they don't want a wounded deer running across their yard, however he stated his answer to that is what do you do when you see a deer get hit by a car – same thing happens and it dies on your property. He stated his first suggestion is to go to the Common Council, explain we should really just go back to following Act 71, and not have the 100-yard restriction. He understands the committee has been trying hard to find locations with 5 + acres, but there is just not that many of them and most of those residents already allow hunters on their property. Secondly, consider the language that was put in is against the law. He further explained the DNR told him the language the city wrote was that you can't hunt within 100 yards of a dwelling without express written consent – and the law states local municipalities cannot pass any laws more restrictive than state law. The state law doesn't say "express written consent" – reason is it is really hard to get someone to put it in writing. Example Dehn stated was in the past they took out about 20 deer from the Nickels' landfill right behind Home Depot because Ron Nickel gave permission to hunt on the property – but when the city passed this ordinance requiring written consent he would not. Dehn stated if the committee really is serious, they aren't going to make an impact, taking out 13 – 14 deer a year – it's just not going to happen. He recognizes the committee works very hard and commended them. He concluded by stating Waukesha County is the second largest county in the state for deer/vehicle collisions next to Dane County. Waukesha County is the highest per capita for Lymes disease from deer ticks.

6. Unfinished Business

Discussion and possible action on the following items:

A. Tree Stand Purchase

Berg stated, although it was approved, they haven't purchased any as they didn't have a location to put the stands. He stated they will be purchased once they have an opportunity to put more two person stands up and they will discuss later this summer.

Discussion by committee to attend school district meetings, presenting possible areas to put new stands.

B. Award Gift Card

Berg stated Zach Navin and John Delgado will each get a \$50.00 gift card.

7. New Business

Discussion and possible action on the following items:

A. End of Season Hunting Numbers/DNR Roll-Up

Berg stated he recently followed up with the DNR (Kelsey Norton) and reports the following:

139 hunters registered

5 nuisance tags were physically picked up from City Hall – however none used

11 citizens participated in the private land program

6 stands were used until 11-21-2021, and then we dropped to 2 stands

13 deer harvested – one used DNR nuisance tag

14 deer were picked up from the side of the road by the city (DPW) throughout 2021

Berg stated compared to last year, documented numbers increased by nine.

Renn brought up a suggestion to possibly have deer hunters text when they shoot a deer (to help with reporting numbers). Reporting only hunter's name and that it was shot in the City of Delafield. He also stated the committee needs to get the word out to hunters that when they shoot a deer to let us know. He stated there are people harvesting deer that go unreported.

B. Waukesha County – Nashotah Park

Fehrm stated they approached the County about putting stands up in Nagawicka Park and they said no, however possibly at Nashotah Park. There was a conference call on 02-18-22, to discuss park either being managed by the Town of Delafield or City of Delafield. After the county considered both committees, they chose the Town of Delafield for this upcoming season to manage as they had more experience. In addition, Fehrm brought up they would have to budget for that as being this was out of city jurisdiction to spend money in Nashotah Park, it was a logical decision for them to make.

C. Off Season Tasks/Timelines

Jacob stated attending both school board meetings, either in April or May.

Marsh brought up trying to find landowners who will allow hunting on their property.

Fehrm brought up starting the process of eliminating the 100-yard rule and presenting it to the Common Council. Berg stated he will do some research on Act 71 and will he will put it on the next agenda. Fehrm also stated he will make sure marketing materials be added to the next City of Delafield Communicator (issued in July).

D. Promotion & Tourism Update (Larry Fehrm)

E. Park & Rec Update (Tim Turnock)

F. Bow Hunting Rules & Regulations

8. Requests for Future Agenda Items

9. Correspondence

Next meeting date is to be determined

10. Adjournment

There was no further business; therefore, the Tuesday, March 15, 2022 Deer Management Committee meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassy Rivers
Administrative Support Specialist