

## **TOWN OF HARVARD DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

***ZOOM MEETING 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Thursday September 7, 2023***

Bob Douglas, Tom Cotton, Ben Urquhart, Jessie Panek

Bob opened the meeting with the standard introduction.

Recommended that those interested in more information - it can be found on our town website and Harvard cable TV.

Tonight's meeting is a pre-game for a ConCom meeting.

Bob stated we had been tasked by Conservation to address three things.

These include:

Frequency of Qualls, desired new management lands, and Policies.

Jessie stated that Chief Babu had asked for date of birth in information requested for the Harvard Police screening. Bob stated that "ConCom can decide if that is information they want as well."

Bob said that in reply to his inquiries on how information was kept private that the Conservation Agent stated there is no town policy on sharing information - and asked if we (DMS) had something. What we did have was the document that we had previously shared with the Conservation Chair.

Jessie put the document on the screen.

The proposed text for Section D [from the Zoom shared screen] is:

“All personal hunter information is retained by the Harvard Conservation Department where it is treated as confidential. However, the name and address of a DMS Volunteer may be provided by the town if an information request is filed with the Town Conservation Commission or the Town Clerk under *Mass General Law 66 Section 10 (a) & (b).*”

Bob believed this was close to what was agreed to with our discussion with the ConCom chair.

Ben: Sounds good.

Tom: Sounds reasonable.

Tom said, "I would think there has got to be a policy someplace."

Bob: One would assume it is secure. Don Richie had mentioned that information could be redacted - but apparently there is no policy for doing such - that has been supplied to us by the town. We had been asked to give our try - and it was not included in the information sent back to us.

Jessie: I did the revision.

Bob: excellent job.

Tom made a motion that the verbiage of Section D be provided to the Conservation Commission.

Second by Jessie - Bob declared unanimous.

Bob: This concludes the policies discussion.

DMS investigated these Properties: Tripp and Old Mill (both in the Care and Custody of Conservation)

Warila and Gravel Pit (Owned by the Town Selectboard)

Approved to advance to the Commission for inclusion in the fall hunt.

Jessie will present to the Commission.

Guidance on qualification/requalification of hunters.

A previous vote was a qualifying exam would take place when a hunter joins the program.

Approval of May 5, 2023 meeting minutes - Tom made motion to approve.

Tom had correction of statement in minutes related to Tripp and Gravel Pit - this will be incorporated into the minutes.

Ben made motion to approve with correction by Tom. Jessie Abstained. All others in favor.

Selectmen have created a policy to allow out of town residents to join the Deer Management Subcommittee. Jessie reported that there was a policy.

Jessie will present to the ConCom on the new properties. Bob reported the state's deer biologist visited the two town properties (Warila and Gravel Pit) and the Tripp Land (ConCom) all of which should be hunted. The state biologist went on to say that Tripp was severely impacted and should definitely be under management.

Fall Hunter welcome meeting is the next meeting, September 11.

Bob asked Jessie to attend as a meet and greet.

Tom made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jessie. Vote unanimous; meeting closed 6:57pm.