

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

***ZOOM MEETING 7:00pm – 8:30 pm  
Monday September 27, 2023***

Bob Douglas, Joe Pulido, Tom Cotton, Jessie Panek  
Eve Wittenberg (ConCom), Officer Ken Gormley (Mass Environmental Police)

Hunter's meeting followed by Subcommittee meeting.

Bob introduced Conservation Chair Eve Wittenberg. Eve explained management of Conservation land. (1800 acres); and introduced Conservation Agent Liz Allard. Her contact information is on the website. Eve introduced Jessie Panek, Conservation Liaison. Jessie, expressed her appreciation to the hunting team and their work in balancing the ecology. Without natural predators, deer have proliferated. *"Deer eat during winter months 4000 buds and twig tips a day – about 7 pounds of food -which impacts the regeneration of our forests. This affects all the animals in our ecosystem." "Thank you for your role in helping keeping the deer numbers from increasing."*

Jessie asked that the hunters keep up with the log.

Bob introduced Mass Environmental Police officer Ken Gormley – who has been helpful to the program in the past.

Ken: Here to support the program. No new rules from last year, but check the abstract.

Discussed hunter harassment. Contact us if you have any issues. Safety is a factor, call 911. Get plate numbers and activity and contact EPOs.

Bob asked for questions from group. None asked.

Chalis Bird Fish and Wildlife was not attending the call but had been scheduled. (Note: She appeared on the next meeting)

Joe Pulido explained and Ben Urquhart, Tom Cotton, Don Osmer read through the Town rules and regulations.

Bob discussed the two Zones (9 & 10) that are part of the Harvard Hunt.

Tom Cotton explained the Log and gave a tutorial. The logs are compiled weekly and shared with the Conservation Agent.

There was a question about when the Log link will be sent – answer next day.

Any questions about hunter numbers – please contact Joe.

Question about seeing people on trail. Yes, should be logged.

Paperwork/IDs will be available for pick-up at Bob's house.

Officer Ken Gormley asked about abutter notification. Bob and Jessie said Harvard is unique and abutters are notified and trail heads marked.

Bob also thanked Chief Babu – he has been very

supportive and asked that hunters not hesitate to contact Harvard police if you need to.

## **BOB ENDED HUNTER MEETING.**

### **Bob called DMS Meeting to order.**

No new minutes.

Bob asked second item to be tabled. The Conservation Chair had mentioned that more information on hunter privacy can be received from town manager.

Bob asked this request to the manager be tabled to a future meeting. There were no objections.

Bob mentioned that State Botanist Karro Frost gave information at a recent ConCom but had more testimony to give but was unable to due to the meeting length. Bob read into the record her additional testimony which she had emailed him. Email Follows:

On Sep 8, 2023, at 7:21 AM, Frost, Karro (FWE) <[karro.frost@mass.gov](mailto:karro.frost@mass.gov)> wrote:

Oh, what I was going to say when the chair said no more to me, was that deer browse mostly on native species. They tend to avoid the invasive species because their systems, just like the native insects, aren't capable of digesting the invasives. As the deer numbers go up, so will invasive plants, because the natives don't stand a chance between browsing by deer, and then being shaded out. I've also seen results of primarily deer spreading seeds of invasives that get stuck in the fur on their legs. This is particularly true for Japanese stilt grass. Unfortunately, deer overabundance is a part of the invasive species problem.

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Karro Frost  
Plant Restoration Biologist  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Bob Summarized, "We have an invasive plant problem, and deer are part of that problem."

Bob asked if there were any more questions or information from DMS members.

Joe asked about Dash tags and other paperwork.

Bob said they will be able to pick up.

Joe asked about posting signs – Bob said Wendy, Tom, and himself will be posing signs.

Eve stated outside speakers at ConCom should be notified to Liz. Bob hoped that Karro Frost's comments she was able to make would be incorporated into the ConCom minutes.

DMS discussed next meeting dates. Wednesdays seem good. Second Wednesday would be 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tom made motion to adjourn. Second by Joe. Meeting declared closed.