

**AD HOC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2007, 5:00 p.m., PARKVIEW ROOM**

1. Call meeting to order.

Present: Chairman Hughes, Trustee Schoenecker, Ms. Reinders, Ms. Saucier, Dr. Haskell, Lt. Schell

Absent: Ms. Houston, Mr. Kolstad

Also Present: Mr. de la Mora, Chief Gage, Ms. Mitchell, and the press

2. Review and act on Ad Hoc Wildlife Management Committee meeting minutes dated April 23, 2007.

Ms. Schoenecker moved and Ms. Saucier seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Public Comment

The Village Attorney, Hector de la Mora, was present to discuss appropriate use of the term nuisance. de la Mora stated that the attorney's office determined the use of the word nuisance should be avoided, because under Wisconsin law there is a requirement to abate and control a nuisance once it's declared. A nuisance would require the Village to spend funds for abatement and control and would put the Village in an awkward position.

Haskell entered

de la Mora explained that there is a difference between a public and private nuisance and that public affects the community as a whole and private has to be determined in court. Hughes stated that the DNR uses the word nuisance and de la Mora explained people bridging practical and legal descriptions use it.

Haskell noted that there is a reference that geese are considered a nuisance in the draft wildlife management program document and de la Mora stated that substantial Village efforts are made to control geese. de la Mora added that goose control affects the whole community because everyone can use the park. Mitchell updated the committee that eggs in one goose nest were addled and oiled in the spring. Hughes inquired if the Village has a resolution declaring geese a nuisance and de la Mora responded that he didn't know if there was a formal resolution. Hughes asked if the wildlife document should be changed to not call geese a nuisance and de la Mora stated that the document can be changed but the Village should be protected as a whole and there needs to be a factual basis for declaring wildlife a nuisance.

4. Review and comment on Village of Elm Grove deer habitat area

Hughes explained that the mapped deer habitat area includes the area along the railroad corridor and the open area by Pilgrim Park Middle School. The area is 504 total acres or .79 total square miles.

5. Review and comment on potential sharp shooting locations and procedure

Hughes explained that sharp shooting could be used if the deer population reaches the set carrying capacity, because it's the most humane way to abate deer. Schell noted that Brookfield only sharp shoots in open areas and typically only live trap in areas where there is not cooperation from the residents because the state statute states sharp shooting needs to be 100 yards away from buildings.

There were questions about the safety of sharp shooting and Schell explained that the shooters shoot as short distances and shoot downward. Haskell added that hollow point bullets are used and will break apart when they hit something.

Schell stated that Brookfield places signs around the sharp shooting area to notify people that may come upon the area and there are very few calls about the noise of gunshots. Gage noted that suppressors can be used and there is less noise because the guns are facing towards the ground. Schell explained that the sharp shooters come at random times and dates from the end of January to the beginning of April. Haskell added that Indian Hills starts netting in December. Schoenecker inquired what would be done if a deer is wounded and Gage responded that an officer would be there to take care of it.

Hughes suggested sharp shooting along the new trail by the DPW to the park area on Bluemound. Gage noted he would want to bring a shooting team into Elm Grove to determine the best locations and would need to check with the

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railroad if shooting would occur on the railroad right-of-way. Schoenecker noted that the railroad should not have a problem with sharp shooting on the right-of-way because deer on the tracks are a problem. Hughes recommended sharp shooting in the triangle area between the railroad tracks and Western Racquet Club. Schell noted that generally four or five sharp shooting locations are used with one or two stands per location.

Saucier inquired if protestors ever came to the sharp shooting locations and Schell stated he had never seen any, but people would complain over the phone at times. Gage added that he would want Western Racquet and CP Rail approval and did not know if the approval would be needed before having the program go to the Board of Trustees for approval. Mitchell noted that she would check with the Village Manager in regards to the approval.

6. Review and comment on Village of Elm Grove Wildlife Management Program draft document

Hughes explained that the wildlife management program document calls for action if there are more than 25 deer per square mile of habitat, which would equal 20 deer for the mapped deer habitat area in Elm Grove. Haskell noted his concern with the allotted number and that 20 deer seems high in an urban area. Schell stated that Brookfield abates in the Dousman Ditch and Wirth Park area, but nothing south of Bluemound and little along Lilly Road and by Bishops Woods.

Hughes recommended changing the wildlife document to include that once the number of deer reaches a certain number the Village would take control and abate a certain number of deer. The committee determined that if the deer population reaches twenty deer then the Village should abate fifty percent of the population.

Schell noted that the City of Brookfield does not manage deer from the number or location of deer accidents because the population is the focus.

7. Review and act on Public Open House

Schoenecker noted that a survey should be given to Village residents to determine an appropriate deer tolerance level and an open house should be scheduled after the summer newsletter is mailed to residents. Hughes explained that the committee's job is to just get the facts and make a recommendation and the Board of Trustees will make any policy changes. Schoenecker recommended setting up an open house and see what the response is.

The committee discussed the format for the open house and determined that the open house should begin on a Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for individuals to look over the draft wildlife program document and the maps of the deer habitat areas. A presentation should begin at 7:00 p.m. and include the committee purpose and a PowerPoint including information regarding sharp shooting and the type of bullets that would be used, the defined deer habitat, carrying capacity, and options for control. The open house will be held in the Courtroom so it can be televised and an agenda should be published. Hughes suggested telling the people about the open house that were at prior wildlife meetings.

Haskell left

8. Other business

None

9. Adjournment

Schoenecker moved and Reinders seconded to adjourn. Motion carried 5 . 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Mitchell
Recreation Director