

## Health, Education & Welfare Committee Meeting of 8/7/2013

### Minutes

Attending: Committee members Natalie Wolf (chair), Tom Muething, Ed Hattenbach; Rich Bardach, Ray Warren, Bill Doering, (council members); Scot Lahrmer, Chief Rich Wallace (staff), Debbie Zimmerman, Ronna Willis, Gloria Simmons, Connie Hinitz, Michael J. Conway, Robin Pringle, Rick Kay

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wolf and the minutes of June 11, 2013 were unanimously approved.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the Deer Management policy as required by Resolution 2012-52 as well as to address concerns of residents regarding Canada Geese.

Resolution Section 1(A): Thermal Image Deer Count. The Village conducted a thermal image deer count on March 26, 2013. 2234 acres (including French Park (275 acres) were surveyed. 184 deer were seen within the Village boundaries, plus 5 "possible" deer, 50 deer were seen immediately outside village boundaries.

Resolution Section 1(B): 22 deer culled in 2013, 23 deer culled in 2012. Since police are permitted to cull up to 50 deer without additional approval by council, there was discussion as to why only half that amount was culled over the last two years. Issues identified by Chief Wallace were weather and manpower. Police are paid overtime to cull deer. Only a limited amount (10-11) can feasibly be culled at a time due to the amount of work needed to clean and haul the deer carcasses. Since the aerial deer count map indicated the majority of deer were in residential neighborhoods rather than the parks, it was speculated that this is due to residents feeding the deer in their yards. Suggestions were made to increase feeding sites at Amberley Green and French Park.

Resolution Section 1(C): Only members of the Amberley Village Police Dept. are permitted to cull the deer, however, Amberley has had several instances of poaching that were reported by the police.

Resolution Section 1(E): Monitoring:

1. DVAs – Only 2 deer vehicle accidents have been reported so far this year. Chief Wallace reported that the majority of DVAs occur between July-December. The police received reports of 14 additional deer that were killed and reported by residents needing removal from their property.
2. This year the village received 40 complaints since January (injured deer, deer on property, dead deer). Last year (2012) there were 22 complaints for the entire year.
3. The Village conducted a survey of public opinion regarding our resident's perceptions of the deer in Amberley and on their property. 305 individual responses were collected. The survey automatically excluded repeat responders. Some highlights: 1 person reported never seeing deer on their property, 229 responders reported seeing deer at least once a day on their property, with 234 respondents reporting seeing at least 3 deer on their property daily. Residents are concerned about deer/vehicle accidents while in Amberley; an overwhelming

majority of respondents reported damage to their plants and landscape of at least \$1-499. The entire survey can be accessed at Village Hall or on the Village website, as well as the results of the aerial survey.

Residents and Committee members are interested in increasing education regarding feeding of the deer and suggestions were made about how to increase awareness. A resident indicated that she has Lyme disease that she contracted in the Northeastern United States, but that deer ticks have been identified as making a presence recently in Southeast Ohio.

The second part of the meeting focused on the influx of Canada Geese in the streets at the bottom of Elbrook Drive. Connie Hinitz counted over 50 geese in her yard. Ray Warren counted almost 125 geese in one area. Complaints were made about geese defecation and residents asked council and the village for help in dealing with the situation. Canada Geese are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Act and by Ohio law. The ODNR makes some limited provision for dealing with Canada Geese, which are considered a nuisance animal and the committee directed manager Scot Lahrmer to survey other suburban communities to determine what, if any measures were taken to eliminate the geese.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson.