

## MEETING NOTES

Deer Committee - Wednesday, July 20, 2016  
6:30 P.M. – Galena City Hall, 101 Green Street

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1. Call meeting to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance: John Cox (Chairperson), Beth Baranski, and Carmen Ferguson. John reported that Mary Hartman has stepped off of the committee.
2. Approve agenda – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Beth and seconded by Carmen. The motion carried.
3. Approve meeting notes from June meeting – A motion to approve the June 15th meeting notes as presented was made by Carmen and seconded by Beth. The motion carried.
4. Presentation of Peggy Doty, Extension Educator from Ogle County, to provide input on general issues of wildlife management - Peggy provided the following information (and shared her PowerPoint presentation):
  - Deer were nearly absent in Illinois in the 1880s. The elk population helped keep them in check, but then the elk, cougars, wolves left. The elk left because a lack of contiguous forest due to logging. In the 1930s the deer were restocked and in 1957 there were enough deer to institute the first hunting season in 33 counties.
  - The deer’s “job” is to survive and reproduce. Deer can double their population every other year. They have no natural predators, so humans are the only managers of the white tail deer.
  - Deer can clear an 8-foot barrier, can run 40 mph.
  - Deer are “crepuscular” meaning they prefer to be active at twilight (dawn and dusk). They are “ruminants” – after eating they sit and hide to let their food digest, predigesting in a special stomach before digestion. AN adult deer eats 5-7 lbs. of herbaceous food per day to survive, and eats more in the fall and the spring.
  - Deer mate October-January, fawns are born late May - mid June.
  - Hunting should focus on doe harvest. Private landowners should be educated to hunt does on their property.
  - All wildlife need to be managed in urban areas (coyote, wolf, black bear, cougar). Recommends looking at Wheaton’s wildlife management plan. She also cited Chicago’s urban coyote project. 14% of Illinois can support a wolf pack – Jo Daviess County is part of this 14%.
5. Discussion of interim report to the City Council including changes, corrections and additions to the draft previously submitted by the committee members. – A motion to delay submittal of a report until the end of the year was made by Carmen and seconded by Beth. The motion carried.

6. Comments from Citizens – There was a shared conversation between all present about the possibility of working with adjacent landowners and using City property on the periphery of town for focused or possibly incentivized hunting.
7. Discussion by committee members of the proposed agenda for August meeting – Krista Ginger, Master Gardener, will present on deer-resistant plantings. The next meeting, hunters will be invited. The succeeding meetings will be dedicated to working on the report.
8. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.