

MEETING MINUTES

DEER COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

6:30 P.M. – GALENA CITY HALL, 101 GREEN STREET

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, Carmen Ferguson, Kirk Foecking, and Mary Hartman.
2. Approve minutes for October, November and December meetings – A motion to approve the minutes for October, November and December was made by Carmen and seconded by Mary. The motion carried.
3. Presentation of and discussion by committee with Laura Simon, wildlife ecologist for the Humane Society of the United States – Laura Simon made an audio presentation from Bethany, Connecticut to accompany her PowerPoint. The content of her presentation is covered in the summary she provided (attached). Highlights included:
 - Eliminating deer has not been shown to reduce tick populations as they simply seek other hosts (studies of Great Island and Crane’s Beach MA).
 - The counterintuitive relationship between deer and Lyme disease, i.e. that the three development stages of the tick and its desire for a large host at the adult stage have resulted in humans being targeted more when deer populations are reduced.
 - The fact that communities have been able to dramatically reduce tick populations by killing ticks on the deer using a 4-poster
 - The best way to reduce incidents of Lyme disease are the 4-poster and self-checks after being outside
 - She has people who can work with local entities to provide a deer-proof gardening workshop
 - Bans on feeding the deer are very important
 - Education about deer-resistant plantings, driving in areas with deer (e’g. Rochester Hills MI “don’t veer for deer” campaign), etc. important
 - We can let her know of particular problems and she will try to help resolve those problems

4. Comments from citizens

Kathy Leonard (102 N. Bench) – Kathy felt the presentation was excellent. Because deer are attracted to road salt and mowed grass along roadways, signage will be needed to warn motorists. Mark Moran reported that IDOT won’t allow the deer crossing signs, but speed limit signs could be helpful. Do we know how many cases of Lyme disease we have? We need local data. Kathy and Krista Ginger have PowerPoints

on deer resistant plantings. The University of Illinois Extension has education resources on this subject.

Tim Wedeward (535 S. High St.) – Tim feels that if the committee keeps an open mind, the possible solutions are limitless, and appreciates John Cox’s commitment to an open-minded approach. Businesses could be involved in the effort – e.g. selling deer-resistant bird feeders. The committee has the job of bringing the community together, not driving them apart. The widening of Rte 20 will improve sightlines for spotting deer.

Bill Grossahns (418 Harrison St.) – This committee process is about conflict management. The City doesn’t have an ordinance to ban the feeding of deer, though it is a state law. There is an individual in town who blatantly feeds the deer, despite being fined for doing so. The City could adopt an ordinance that is stronger than the state law which could send a message.

5. Committee comments and discussion on the issue of whether or not we have a problem of too many deer in the city limits of Galena and possible action on recommending a deer count in Galena – Carmen asked about how we can identify specific issues residents are having, and Laura suggested a Survey Monkey survey would be helpful and she will send a template. Kirk likes the idea of using the 4-poster. Beth expressed an interest in trying to begin mapping where the deer paths are located through Galena.
6. Discussion by committee members of the proposed agenda for the February meeting related to deer chronic wasting disease – Doug Dufford, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will be presenting on chronic wasting disease (CWD).
7. Brief comments by chair on how committee will review the results of the deer count as previously recommended to the city council –
8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.