

MEETING NOTES
DEER COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018
3:00 P.M. – GALENA CITY HALL, 101 GREEN STREET

1. Call meeting to order - The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance: John Cox (Chairperson), Carmen Ferguson, and Beth Baranski. Kirk Foecking arrived soon after.
2. Approve agenda action – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Beth and seconded by Carmen. The motion carried.
3. Consider information obtained by the helicopter count presented by Matt Oldenburg – The helicopter took off from Gateway Park at 12:50 p.m. Using the river and roads as boundaries, three zones were defined and flown in clover leaf and serpentine patterns. Visibility was good. They flew 1000-1800 feet above sea level which was 400-1200 feet above grade. All three individuals in the helicopter (the pilot, Matt, and Tim from DNR) confirmed the number and location of the deer counted. They are confident in the accuracy of the count. It took about 3 hours to complete the count. A total of 151 deer were counted, of which 136 were within the city limits. The deer were primarily within the wooded areas.
4. Review results of survey of landowners whose property adjoins the city limits - presented by Mark Moran - Per the action plan, Mark reached out to landowners just outside the city limits. Surveys were sent out November 15th with a return date of November 30th, 2017, 12 of the 29 landowners sent surveys responded. The 12 respondents had a total of 1,834 acres hunted. According to the 5 who reported on those hunting, 23-31 individuals hunt in these areas annually, 67% harvest does, 67% harvest bucks, and 58% would increase hunting.
5. Consider updated recommendations to the city council – The committee agreed to maintain the original recommendation laid out in the plan, understanding that, because of the high count, it makes sense for the city to consider hunting in the two city-owned tracts of land on the perimeter.
6. Comments from citizens – Pam Bernstein thanked the committee for undertaking the topic, and believes the recommendations are sensible. Bill Grosshans seconded that opinion, noting that the aerial count was done as recommended and that its time to move forward with the right attitude. Mark expressed concern about U.S. 20, and John replied that IDOT has said they would consider signage and that he will follow up with them.

7. Consider how to provide input to the city council – After discussion, it was agreed that it would make sense to get on the council agenda and John will present on the committee's thoughts following the aerial count. Committee members and Bill Grosshans will send thoughts to John for his presentation. Pam Bernstein noted that the next council meeting is February 12th, and she will let the council know that the committee will be making a recommendation at the next meeting.
8. Other issues for consideration as requested by committee – Beth thought the education plan should be revised going forward, given the low attendance at the Extension presentations.
9. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carmen and seconded by Kirk. The motion carried.