

MEETING MINUTES

DEER COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

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

1. Call meeting to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance: John Cox (Chairperson), Beth Baranski, Carmen Ferguson, Kirk Foecking, and Mary Hartman. John made opening comments to explain that the meetings will be focused on the work of the committee. The committee will make a recommendation to the City Council, but it is advisory only. The City Council will make the final decision about actions to be taken, if any. Decisions by the committee will be made by consensus, unless a vote is deemed necessary. The committee will take as much time as it feels is necessary to complete the work in a thorough manner.
2. Approve agenda action – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kirk and seconded by Carmen. The motion carried.
3. Comments by chair on meeting procedures and guidelines for citizen participation and brief review of committee member materials - John explained that 30 minutes will be provided at the end of each meeting for citizen comments (3 minutes per speaker). Citizen participation is invited and submittal of information and comments is encouraged. Email addresses for the committee members are available on the City of Galena website, as are the informational materials provided to the committee members in binders.
4. Review proposed *plan of action structure* and possible vote on approval thereof action – John reviewed a “Proposed Plan of Action Structure” that the Mayor had asked him to create for the committee. A motion to add to the “Plan of Action Structure” a recommendation that the City Council seriously consider putting a referendum question on the ballot for the spring 2016 election was made by Beth and seconded by Carmen. Beth explained that she had reason to believe citizens were planning to petition for a referendum question on the deer topic and that it might be useful for the City to frame a question that would be helpful to their decision-making process. Concern was expressed that this might be bypassing the committee’s process and work. The motion carried by a 3 to 2 vote. Beth offered a referendum question for the council’s consideration for discussion purposes: Yes or No, Should the City of Galena adopt a Deer Population Management Program that is based on verifiable data, collected and reviewed on an annual basis? The committee agreed by consensus to offer the question to the council.

5. Review of suggested agendas for future committee meetings – John presented draft agendas for the committee’s meetings that offered a proposed structure for the committee’s work. He emphasized that the agendas can be modified and shifted around as the committee sees fit throughout the process.
6. Additional comments by committee members on how the committee work shall proceed – There is interest in looking at what other communities somewhat like Galena have done.
7. Comments from citizens

Bill Grosshans (418 Harrison St.) – Feels committee should look at all communities the size of Galena whether they did or did not decide to cull the deer. He feels an aerial count is so important so we can know for sure what we’re dealing with. He attended the DNR presentation on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and believes the DNR said there was no CWD outside of Elizabeth, none in the Galena Territory. If culling is determined to be necessary, consider sterilization. Get accident reports and consider whether accidents occur in town or on hwy 20. Consider lowering speed limits, adding deer-crossing signs.

Wayne Hoskins (804 Clay St.) – Believes we have a deer problem as he sees many deer on his property. Supports a flyover count. His wife also supports a flyover count.

Ryan Getz (1102 Franklin) – Is concerned about ecological damage in ecosystems and the impacts on native populations. He recommends relying on DNR staff (e.g. Doug Dufford, Jeff Horn) for this information. Rely on the science.

8. Discussion by committee members of the proposed agenda for November meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for November 19th. Galena Territory General Manager, Joe Mattingly, will present on the Territory’s deer management. Rich Mattas may also present. Someone from Apple Canyon Lake may present in December.
9. Comments by chair on how process has worked and goals of the committee meeting process – John commented on how the process seemed to work well as the committee had good discussion, voted when necessary, and came to consensus. Mark Moran, City Administrator asked that approval of minutes be added to the agendas, and noted that the City is in conversation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) about deer crossing signage.
10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.