

MEETING NOTES

DEER COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, May 18, 2016

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.
2. Approve agenda – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Beth and seconded by Mary. The motion carried.
3. Approve meeting notes from April meeting – A motion to approve the April 20th meeting notes as presented was made by Mary and seconded by Kirk. The motion carried.
4. Complete previous discussion of possible survey of citizens of Galena regarding numerous issues the community faces related to the deer population and whether or not we want to request assistance from the council to mail and tally the survey results – The committee agreed that the purpose of a survey would be to gather information that would help the committee help the City decide what to do. If a survey is done it was felt that one survey should be mailed to each household with a stamped return addressed envelope included. The survey could ask about specific damage being done by the deer. The sample survey created by Beth was discussed and committee members were asked to compile questions that should be included in a potential survey for consideration at the next meeting. If the decision is made to recommend a survey, this recommendation can be included in the interim report to the city council (which will also be discussed at the next committee meeting).
5. Presentation by Julie Bruser of Wild Birds Unlimited on the topic of “How it’s possible to feed the birds without feeding the deer.” – Julie provided several methods/options for feeding birds in ways that the deer would not have access to or would not be attracted to the food:
 - The deer can only reach to about 6 feet up, so raising feeders above this level on poles or up on a deck or mounted on a building would prohibit the deer from accessing the bird food.
 - The deer tend to eat at dawn and at dusk, so bringing the feeders in at night can eliminate the issue – for deer *and* for raccoons.
 - Cages can be placed around tubular feeders so that the deer’s tongues can’t reach the food.
 - Keeping the ground below feeders tidy reduces the attraction. Using hull-less seed is helpful in this regard. Using solid birdseed cylinders also helps with this issue.

- Coating birdseed with hot pepper sauce makes it distasteful to deer, but the birds don't mind it.
- The deer are creatures of habit, and moving the feeders or taking them down occasionally might reduce their visits to it.

A square garlic-scented medallion hanging from a chain was discussed as a possible deterrent. Motion-detection sprinklers were discussed as a possible deterrent. Plant sprays were discussed as possible deterrents. Julie said she would be willing to offer items in the store to deter deer. She provided her contact information for any future questions (Wild Birds Unlimited, 206 S. Main Street, 815/777-2883, wildbirds@wbugalena.com, www.wbu.com/galena).

6. Comments from Citizens

Bill Grossahns (418 Harrison St.) – Asked if the committee would consider survey questions submitted by non-committee members, and John said “yes.” Bill suggested that a city ordinance prohibiting the feeding of deer be put into the interim report as something to do now, rather than waiting, and he provided a sample ordinance from Orland Park, IL (there had been a question as to whether Illinois law would allow municipalities to have such an ordinance).

7. Discussion of 1st Draft of Report to the City Council Including Changes, Corrections and Additions

– John summarized the information he included to date in the draft Interim Report. He asked that the committee members go through this draft, the materials we've received to date and the materials on the City's Deer Committee website, and come to the next meeting prepared to work on the Interim Report. Prior to the next meeting, John will talk to the City Attorney about the City's statutory authority to pass an ordinance prohibiting deer feeding. He will also contact IDOT to obtain a definitive response regarding possible signage on Route 20. Beth will put together a summary about the deer count information to be placed with the count data on the website.

8. Discussion by Committee Members of the Proposed Agenda for June Meeting

– The June meeting will be a work session to create an Interim Report for the City Council. Jeff Horn, IDNR, prefers to submit a written report to the committee rather than presenting, and John will share that report with the committee upon receipt. Peggy Doty, University of Illinois Extension Educator and wildlife management specialist is scheduled to present at the July meeting. Krista Ginger, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, is scheduled to present on deer-resistant plantings at the August meeting.

9. Adjournment

– The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.