

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
DEER MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, Ingrid Liu, Annette Madden

Absent: John Flynn

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Tim Preuss (Illinois Department of Natural Resources)

2. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Lueking made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gillard, to allow electronic participation.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, Ingrid Liu, Annette Madden

Absent: John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lena Georgiev, 411 Lathrop. Ms. Georgiev stated she thought the cost of culling should be included on the survey as well as a definition of culling. She stated that culling leads to increased fertility and asked about including nonviolent alternatives to culling on the survey. She asked how the survey will be distributed and shared her experience with testing for Lyme disease. She asked about what research the Committee has done and whether the member applications are available.

Mary Vanker, 1234 Monroe. Ms. Vanker thanked Tim Preuss for participating in the meeting and encouraged the Committee to consider his direction on the survey, and asked that he share information about establishing goals and how to achieve them. Ms. Vanker discussed the cost of the IGA with the Forest Preserves and providing costs of options on the survey. Ms. Vanker encouraged the Committee to be fair in what information is shared in the survey so that it is not biased and commented about Question 3.

Chairperson Cargie stated the cost of the IGA is up to \$40,000 and based on the number of tags.

Frank Vanker, 1234 Monroe. Mr. Vanker expressed concern about ranking answers in Question 8. Mr. Vanker asked that the Committee consider including a “sequential approach” as part of Question 11. He expressed concern about including population control in multiple questions and stated some questions are inaccurate and misleading. He also commented about Question 12.

Chairperson Cargie read into the record comments submitted by Annie Wallis, 846 Monroe. She encouraged the Committee to take the advice of Mr. Preuss regarding the survey and to request his advice on how to gather data to measure success. She also provided comments about language in the survey, specifically for Questions 3, 7, 8, and 11.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Lueking made a motion, seconded by Ms. Liu, to approve the June 2, 2020 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, Ingrid Liu, Annette Madden

Absent: John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

5. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Chairperson Cargie reported that the Village Board of Trustees had no objection to the Committee spending \$3,000 to mail post cards to all households in the Village.

In response to a question from Ms. Armstong, Chairperson Cargie stated there is no hard date to finish the survey since they are no longer considering a water bill insert. However, he noted the it is completed the better so the Committee has more time to collate the responses. He also noted that the Committee’s report and recommendation is due September 30.

In response to a question from Ms. Christmas, Chairperson Cargie stated he would check with the Village Administrator about requesting email addresses on the survey.

Ms. Hughes suggested the Committee implement its own rule to limit public comment to 5 minutes.

Mr. Preuss summarized the intent of the survey, suggesting it should be about identifying issues in the Village rather than educating the public.

The Committee members asked Mr. Preuss various questions. He confirmed that the only permits the IDNR issues for deer population control are sharpshooting and, depending on the program, live capture and mechanical euthanization. He explained that these are the only programs that are proven to be effective in reducing deer related issues. He noted there are logistical issues with contraception and sterilization and that these are experimental methods and not effective from the IDNR's perspective. Regarding sequential approaches, Mr. Preuss stated nonlethal methods are methods applied by residents. He stated that the driving factor of deer population control methods is based on deer damage being experienced and that estimates of a deer population size are unnecessary for permits. He confirmed that the entity submitting a permit is required to submit data related to deer damage, noting that in this community, the Forest Preserves would submit data based on plant damage. Mr. Preuss explained that the survey data the Village will be collecting will help determine whether to enter into an agreement with the Forest Preserves, who will submit the permit application based on deer damage to the Forest Preserves' property. He suggested conducting the survey annually to track trends, noting that it is not very labor intensive. He stated a research program to capture deer and treat for sterilization could cost between \$200,000-\$300,000 per year. Referring to a Highland Park sterilization study, he stated it was not effective long term, increased deer-vehicle accidents, and increased the doe mortality rate. Mr. Preuss stated he does not know what data the Forest Preserves has since a permit has not been submitted but that they know they would need to submit data to substantiate the permit. He stated some municipalities implement their own deer feeding ban to make it more easily enforceable, though it is already against State law.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Continued Discussion and Consideration for Approval of the River Forest Deer Questionnaire

The Committee members discussed the proposed questionnaire.

There was a consensus that: Question 1 was ok; Chairperson Cargie would ask about including emails for Question 2; Question 3 was ok; to remove option a from Question 4; to change 24-months to 12-months in Questions 4 and 5; to rearrange some of the questions so they followed one another more clearly; to replace "since living in River Forest" to "experiencing in the last 12-months" in Question 7; to change the ranking of answers in Question 8 to scales of importance; to change "circle" to "check" in Question 10.

The Committee discussed Question 11 at length and came to a consensus to leave it as is, and to discuss the remaining items at its next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. NEXT MEETING

The Committee members came to a consensus to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lemar to adjourn the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, Ingrid Liu, Annette Madden

Absent: John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary