

Deer and Tick Committee  
P.O.Box 970  
Shelter Island, New York 11964  
(631) 749-0758  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 12, 2008

**Members Present:** Chairman Rae Lapides, Janalyn Travis Messer, Patricia Shillingburg, Mike Scheibel, Steve Lenox

**Members Excused:** Dr. Scott Campbell, Dr. Bill Zitek, Marion Dickerson, Dr. Vincent DeGregorio

**Others Present:** Supervisor Dougherty, Jake Williams, Nancy Byrnes, Susan Walker,

Meeting Called to order 10:00 AM

Minutes from May 8, 2008, were approved.

**New Business:**

**Update from Cornell:**

Susan Walker reported that the deer are using the 53 4-poster stations on Shelter Island, and eating enough corn to warrant an upward adjustment of the approximately 60 bags of corn supplied to the stations on a weekly basis. She further reported that the deer are expanding their normal home ranges of one square mile. Mike Scheibel stated that more deer have moved into Mashomack Preserve since last March.

Ms. Walker stated that the goal for tagged deer has been 10, both here on Shelter Island, and in North Haven. She further stated that in order to accomplish that goal she may seek approval for another trapping season before hunting season opens in September. She stated that being able to access property would be helpful in tagging deer and also to set up the seven unused 4-poster units. Chairman Lapides stated that she would give Ms. Walker a list of residents who have requested 4-poster units to be placed on their properties.

Dan Gilrein was unable to attend this meeting, but did send in an e-mail report stating that he and his new assistant, Jonathan Charest, continue sampling and hope to complete sampling by the end of June, weather permitting. He reported that many Lone Star nymphs have been found, as well as some Blacklegged nymphs, and some clusters of Lone Star larvae. He further reported that the proposal to the NY Department of Agriculture, marketing for funding secured by Senator LaValle will be submitted tomorrow; and he is hoping for an immediate approval.

He reported that he is finding rodent damage to some of the 4-poster units, and will be replacing a cover that was chewed through on one unit.

**Update on Flyover:**

The Committee reviewed the statistics from the March flyover, noting that density has decreased from an average of 30 deer per square mile to 25 deer per square mile. Chairman Lapidés relayed that Dr. Pound has stated that the optimal number for 4-poster station effectiveness is 25 deer per square mile.

The Committee also reviewed the harvest number of 306 deer taken by way of nuisance hunting and regular hunting on Shelter island from 9/1/2007 to 3/15/2008. Mr. Scheibel stated that these numbers do not include legally harvested deer taken on properties not managed by himself, Gunner Wisseman or Chief Read. He further stated that the exact number of additional deer taken on the Island is unknown, and not readily available due to reporting rates and accessibility to DEC data.

Steve Lennox stated that he believes approximately 250 bow and arrow harvests may have been unreported.

**Educational Ad:**

Chairman Lapidés reported that she has received 8 responses to the Tick Bite questionnaire, which was published in the Shelter Island Reporter. She further reported that this Committee is compiling the statistics in order to garner documentation on tick-related illnesses for the purpose of lobbying the County and State for funding for the 2009 continuation of the study.

Supervisor Dougherty reported that the County is stalling over a confidentiality provision in the contract, and he urged the Foundation members to contact County Executive Steve Levy's office to obtain the study's results.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM

*Next Scheduled Meeting July 10, 2008, at 10:00 AM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Danielle LiCausi, Clerk to the Committees

