

CITY OF DELAFIELD DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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Call to Order

Braun called the September 9, 2020 Deer Management Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call:

Present

Joe Braun, Chair

Kent Attwell, Mayor

Dave Brabson, P&R Rep.

Jim Marsh, Citizen Member

Jim Renn, Citizen Member

Absent

Dan Miller, PWC Rep.

Larry Fehrm, Promo & Tour Rep.

City of Delafield Citizens' Comments for items on or off the agenda.

**Susie Thompson, 700 Milwaukee Street**, noticed a large number of deer in the City recently. A few weeks ago, a deer had been hit by a vehicle near Clearview. The City was notified on a Thursday and the deer was not retrieved until Monday of the next week. This caused distress to the people living at Clearview. While it was important to continue to cull the deer herd in the City, it was also important to collect deer as soon as possible from City roadways.

**Jim Zahorik, 1948 West Shore Drive**, noted two deer had been hit near his property on Highway C. In the past, a sub-contractor had been called by the City to remove the deer. That sub-contractor covered a large range for pick-up of these animals. Animals can bloat quickly in hot weather and four days was not unusual to wait for a deer to be picked up on local roadways. He had been involved with deer culling for more than 20 years with the DNR and working with sharpshooters. Working with sharpshooters was very successful in the past. Last year, the sharpshooter had removed 11 deer from his property.

**Wayne Dehn, 3479 Broken Bow Trail**, had signs to put on stands that could be used this year. Tags were laminated and printed on colored paper to be hung in the City deer stands. The colored paper distinguished the City's tags as being different than those provided by the DNR and printed by private hunters. The DNR wanted hunters to use the tags only where they were assigned. Green colored tags would be used in the Town of Delafield this year so the City might want to consider using a color other than green. Information still needed to be changed on the City website being used by hunters interested in the City's Deer Management Program and some errors remained. A document noting errors requiring correction was provided to Braun at this time. He was working with the Town of Delafield and continued to receive phone calls from the hunters wanting to set up appointments for the City. People that called him from the City were told to contact City staff. There are 89 hunters in the Town of Delafield thus far with 10 deer stands being filled by 88 appointments set through [www.deersits.com](http://www.deersits.com). The City's meeting calendar indicate the Deer Management Committee meeting was being held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. For this reason, he was concerned that proper notification had not been provided to the public for this meeting.

Zahorik explained he was notified about this meeting on September 8, 2020 via email through the City Listserv. Other people must have been on that same distribution list and were too busy to attend. He was hesitant when first approached about having a sharpshooter on his property due to the liability that he was asked to assume as a property owner. The City seemed to have "washed its hands" of the anything that would occur while the sharpshooter activity would take place on his property. He had referred this matter to his attorney. The attorney counseled with the DNR and found that there were laws that protected property owners at times when hunters would come to his property to manage deer herds. The City brought the sharpshooters to property

**CITY OF DELAFIELD DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES****DRAFT**

owners and compensated them for their sharpshooting, but the property owner had to incur the liability and sign off on that before the sharpshooters could come onto his property. The City should coordinate with the DNR for information to be provided to property owners. He had nearly cancelled his participation as a property owner due to this incursion of liability as requested by the City. More property owners were needed for the sharpshooter program and there was a great deal of available land that could be hunted. Property owners did not need this hassle or responsibility in supporting the work of the City's deer management.

Hearing no further commentary, Citizens' Comments were closed.

Approval of [August 19, 2020](#) Minutes

**BRABSON MOVED, SECONDED BY ATTWELL, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 19, 2020 DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. DISCUSSION ENSUED REGARDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MINUTES TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS. NOT ALL MEMBERS RECEIVED THE MINUTES IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. COPIES WERE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE FOR THOSE THAT DID NOT RECEIVE THE MINUTES IN THEIR EMAIL. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

1. Unfinished Business.

Discussion and possible action on status of 2020 Deer Management Program.

Committee members discussed the 2020 Deer Management Program. Braun had begun training on the software necessary for booking appointments for the City's deer hunting stands. Start and end times would be noted beginning with the legal time of sunrise until noon, a one-hour gap for turnover of hunters and then from 1PM to legal closing time for bow hunting stands. There would be one hunter per reservation per stand or pod. It was noted that a pod was located on the Del-Hart property. Dehn confirmed that there were two stands at the City brush drop off site including a tree tower stand and one ladder stand. Lois Jensen Park had two ladder stands. There was a pod tower at Oakwood Park and another pod stand located in the past in the Nichols landfill area near Home Depot. In the past, 50 nuisance tags had been received by the City from the DNR. They were typically laminated, and three tags were hung in the stands for hunters. Legibility was important for the numbers listed on the tags because they were used to communicate with the DNR once a deer was taken. Discussion ensued regarding the color of tags to be used this year. Blue would be used for the 2020-2021 hunting season.

Dehn explained the process used in the past regarding tags being hung in the deer stands on City property only. Hunters would need to register on the City website to be allowed to hunt. Once registration was complete and approved, he would issue information to that hunter about how to schedule a reservation on the City website. Hunters needed the tags left in the stand to be able to report date/ time and county of the deer kill and he would get an email back from the DNR saying the tag number was registered to a hunter. For the stands on public City land, three tags were laminated and hung three per stand on the seat so hunters could not miss seeing them during their reserved time. They did not come into City Hall to retrieve the tags in advance. They picked them up in the tree stand at the time they had scheduled to hunt. Tags were tracked and when a hunter took a tag there were instructions hanging near the tags to call the number listed on the instructions in the stand. When the second to last tag was used, hunters would let him know and he would again replace the tags, three at a time. To hunt on private land, hunters were required to come into City Hall and pick up the tag in advance of the hunting date. On both public and private lands, if a tag was not used in a two-week timeframe, the tag was rescinded and returned to Dehn and he passed the tag to the next person on the waiting list. If there was no one on the waiting list, then that hunter could come back and use it again for the following two-week period.

**CITY OF DELAFIELD DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**DRAFT**

Discussion ensued regarding hunting on land near Indian Spring Drive and Highway C. The process was a bit different for hunting on private land. A homeowner would send a form to the City indicating a willingness to allow hunters on their private land. Interested hunters would fill out an application indicating interest in hunting on private land. Landowners and hunters would be matched. Hunters would be responsible for coming into City Hall to retrieve a two-week "matched" tag to be used on private land. "Matched" tags were nuisance tags provided through the City's program but used for a hunter that was matched with a private landowner and allowed to hunt on those private lands. Deer could be harvested on private land with a "matched" tag provided by the City or with a hunter's personal tag. In all cases, whether hunting on public or private land, hunters were required to register with the DNR in advance of making reservations to hunt in City stands or picking up "matched" tags to hunt on private property. In the past, any deer killed on either public or private land were reported to Dehn and included in the deer harvest count for the year.

Committee members discussed whether any changes were needed to the program at this point. Approximately 20 applications had been received to date with more arriving daily. Once all stands were placed in the City, information would be provided to hunters that had provided an application and were approved to make reservations to begin the reservation process. The Wisconsin Bow Hunting season dates were from September 12, 2020 to January 31, 2020 in this unit.

Discussion took place regarding the tasks required before the opening of bow hunting season. Renn and Attwell would place tags in stands this year in advance of the hunting season. Dehn would provide the aerial photos and GPS coordinates for the stands used in the past.

2. New Business – None.
3. Correspondence– None.

A letter had been received from Juliette Rogers, a property owner thinking of buying property in the area near Oakwood Park. She was concerned about the use of tree stands near the disk golf area of the park because she had children that played in that area. It was noted that hunters were only allowed on City property. Tree stands were located at least 45 yards from the property line and more than 110 yards from the house in that area. Hunters were shooting to the northeast well away from the area being referenced. Hunting signage had been posted in park entrances where hunting took place.

Information was provided about the stands at the Nichols Landfill area. An update on this location was requested as agenda item for the next Deer Management Committee meeting.

Discussion further ensued regarding a database of deer kills. In 2019, a total of 20 deer were taken on City lands and 76 deer removed on private lands. Of those 76, 15 were removed by sharpshooters. Dehn provided an update on the database and agreed to send a report to Braun noting final totals for 2019.

The Committee discussed how best to recruit new private landowners to the program because the supply and demand related to landowners and hunters did not match. There were more hunters willing to hunt than land available. Discussion took place regarding the appropriate acreage necessary for effective hunting. S. Thompson agreed to assist in researching the acreage needed and offered to deliver information about participation by landowners in the City's Deer Management matching program to residents.

**CITY OF DELAFIELD DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**DRAFT**

4. Adjournment

There was no further business; therefore, the September 9, 2020 Deer Management Committee meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Minutes Prepared By:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.