

Minutes
Bar Harbor Deer Herd Control Task Force
March 6, 2014
Upstairs Conference Room-Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
4:30 pm

I. Call to Order
In attendance, Robert Kelley, Shaun Farrar, Jesse Wheeler, Robert Burgess, , Tom Schaeffer. Also two members of the public.

II. Absences
Robert Jordan, Chuck Starr, Bruce Connery

III. Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of the Feb 6, 2014 meeting approved with correction to Dr. Wong's title, 5-0.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda adopted by 5-0 vote.

Sgt. Farrar presented car/deer accident data from Bar Harbor, Kennebunk, Bath, Old Town, Topsham. All are towns with similar total number of reportable accidents. Bar Harbor had roughly four times higher percentage of accidents caused by deer (three year average of 18.7%, vs. averages of <1, 4, 4, and 6.3% for other towns). Jesse inquired about speed limits to reduce car/deer accidents. Shaun suggested the State is reluctant to reduce speed limits without compelling reason. Tom mentioned improved deer crossing signage.

Jesse updated on conversations with Dr. Wong on tick studies including resampling areas in the Park and on private land. Flagging is best done in the spring, highest success in testing for tick borne pathogens. Tips of deer ears can be used to estimate tick load.

Enthusiasm was expressed for repeating pellet counts done in 2013, establishes baseline population estimates that can also be mapped, provides metric for success of a management plan in the future, is of interest regardless of whether there is a change to deer management in Bar Harbor.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Items for Next Agenda

Break out car accident data by month, get SWH, Mount Desert numbers (Shaun Farrar).

Updated GIS mapping information including property set backs, pellet surveys (Bruce)

More on Lyme Disease and tick surveys (update from NPS discussions with Dr. Wong?)

Consider developing matrix of who/where/how/when plus outcome measures for any management plan

VIII. Adjournment

5:20 by unanimous consent.