

**VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED DEER CULLING PROGRAM
DECEMBER 7, 2010
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Houston Stebbins
Deputy Mayor Gerard Pompan
Trustee Christopher Hansen
Trustee Thomas Wilson
Trustee Robert Zgonena

Clerk: Deborah Matthews

Also: Chief Ken Sanford, Susan Goodfellow, David duPont, Kristina Ward, Cami Fischer, Mary Grimmig, Mary Graetzer, Alan Yassky, Tinka Shaw, Jane & Charles deCasteja, Alan Heywood, Dana Farrington, Robert Simon, Mary Jo Guinchard, Mrs. El-Rayess, Meg Vaught, Michael Collins, Carlyn Cappella and others.

Mayor Stebbins called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., read the public hearing notice published in the Times-Herald Record on November 26, 2010, and read his summary of the purpose and goals of the proposed culling program. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit opinions from the community on a proposed Deer Culling Program and to determine the magnitude of support for such a program.

In addition to those present at the meeting, 32 e-mails from residents had been received up to the time of the meeting, and all were in favor of a culling program.

PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Mayor Stebbins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pompan that the public hearing be opened at 7:37 p.m. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor Stebbins noted that the most information received to date has been from the company called White Buffalo, Inc. which is a nonprofit wildlife management and research organization. Their initial consultations are conducted to provide site-specific cost and feasibility assessments for all management options. Their assessments include: deer population size, density and distribution; relative herd health; percentage of the target population to be removed; approachability of individual animals; alternative food resources; techniques permitted by State and landholder; Legal constraints; equipment selection; total management area; human population, distribution and activity patterns; housing density; access – private vs. public; road network, etc. He noted that killing all the deer will still not eliminate all the deer ticks. Based on the life cycle of a tick, the Village would still see cases of Lyme disease for up to two years. In addition, the ticks attach themselves to the white footed mouse, which is another problem. The white footed mouse desires a clean landscape and thrives with no understory, which the deer provide. Therefore, the forest understory needs to recover and allow more biodiversity.

Those speaking in favor of the Culling Program were: Alan Heywood, David duPont, Jane deCasteja, Alan Yassky, Cami Fischer, Robert Simon, Susan Goodfellow, Dana Farrington, Michael Collins, Carlyn Cappella.

A motion was made by Mayor Stebbins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pompan that the public hearing be closed at 8:23 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Chief Sanford reported that the results of culling using the D-Map have not been productive. In 2 ½ weeks the Police designated hunters have only netted 2 deer.

A discussion was held regarding ticks, Lyme disease, deer drives and their effectiveness, and the programs of White Buffalo and the USDA, which is also being considered for the deer management program.

Mayor Stebbins noted that an application is being submitted to the NYSDEC with a list of 10 property locations that either White Buffalo or the USDA will use as sites for the culling. The NYSDEC approved sites will be those that have a lot of acreage. Activities of hunters will be from sunset to 11:00 p.m. in areas with the least risk. The DEC permits will be issued to the Village and not individual homeowners. The program will take place entirely within the boundaries of the Village. The culling would begin in February, but baiting has to take place at least three weeks prior. The approximate cost is between \$20,000-\$25,000. Any deer taken would be turned over to a processor and then donated to approved food distribution organizations.

The Board is leaning more toward White Buffalo as it is more experienced, they provide training to police officers, and they are good at what they do. However, a meeting is scheduled with the USDA for the end of the week to obtain more details/cost of their program. The two programs will be compared and a vote taken at the December 15th regular BOT meeting.

ADJOURN TO ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION

A motion was made by Mayor Stebbins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pompan to enter into an attorney-client session at 9:01 p.m. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Matthews
Village Clerk-Treasurer