

OUTLINE

Shelton Deer Committee Report to BOA

WORKING DRAFT

LAST UPDATE JULY 9, 2014

Executive Summary

Statement of purpose (why was Deer Committee established? Who is on it? Discussion of guest speakers, public comments).

Is there a problem? What is the extent of the problem?

- Conservation lands, ecosystems, watershed lands
- Landscaping, crop damage
- Deer/Vehicle strikes
- Tick-borne Illnesses

What are the management options?

- Do Nothing
- Birth control
- Relocation
- Poster devices
- Program to match hunters with property owners
- Recreational hunting on City properties
 - a. Bow hunting
 - b. Firearms
- GIS mapping of properties with regard to deer control
- Track data such as deer/vehicle strikes, Lyme cases, deer densities, forest health
- Hire Professional sharpshooters

What does the Deer Committee recommend and why?

- Create a “Deer Management Committee”
- Open a small number of remote City properties to bowhunting by special permit only
- Hunting permits would be subject to background checks, references, and interviews
- Establish rules regarding exactly where/how the hunts will be carried out (distances from trails and property lines, approval of tree stand locations, etc).
- Expand the areas open to bowhunting over time, subject to review by Conservation Commission and approval by BOA
- Facilitate the creation of a volunteer-lead program to match hunters with property owners, such as the BeSafeRedding program.
- Collect and monitor data (GIS mapping, deer/vehicle strikes/Lyme cases, deer density, forest health)

- Monitor studies and efforts by other towns with regard to sharpshooting and rates of tick-borne illnesses. At this time, the Deer Committee feels it is premature to endorse sharpshooting, which is costly and controversial, until such time as there is solid evidence that such actions would substantially reduce tick-borne illnesses in humans and pets.
- Conduct public education and outreach (eg discouraging deer via landscaping, fencing, deer repellents; conducting daily tick checks; impacts of deer on ecosystems; hunting regulations, feeding of deer, etc). [added per meeting of July 8]