

DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**Deer Management Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2022**

Committee members in attendance: Jeff Lapnow, Donna Merrill, Jeffrey Runge, Mike Russnok

Others in attendance: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs

Absent: Brett Amero (notified of intended absence)

Call to Order: The meeting began at 6:40 pm.

- I. Committee Roles and Chair Nomination:** Mr. Lapnow MOVED to NOMINATE Mike Russnok as Chair for the remainder of 2022 and 2023, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill and CARRIED 4-0-0.
- II. Status of 2022 Hunt Season:** Mr. Russnok confirmed the Hunter Kick-Off Meeting was a success and the hunt is ongoing with 21 deer harvested in Wilton as of October 15, 2022 per the CT DEEP website.

Mr. Russnok explained a hunter unknowingly strayed off of his assigned property onto the Riding Club property which was addressed. He also stated Gregg/Belknap signs were disturbed with anti-hunting stickers. The stickers were removed and the matter was reported to the State Environmental Conservation Police.
- III. Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) Presenter Discussion – Mike Conklin:** Mr. Conklin noted he attended this online conference and learned the best defense against invasive plants is a healthy balanced deer population, not invasive plant removal which can exacerbate problems with jumping worms. The deer enclosure at Quarry Head will be repaired. A question was raised about using deer drives during our hunt. Mr. Russnok and Mr. Conklin explained this is not a safe practice and not allowed in our hunt program.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: May 10, 2022**

Mr. Lapnow MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes of May 10, 2022 as drafted, SECONDED by Dr. Runge and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

V. Public Comment - None

VI. Adjourn – The meeting ended at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs