

**TOWN OF HARVARD
DEER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
ZOOM Meeting 6:30 PM
Thursday APRIL 1, 2021**

DMS: Bob Douglas, Ben Urquhart, Tom Cotton, Joe Pulido, Paul Willard.

Public: Susan McCarthy, Challis Bird & Mike Huguien Mass FWS; Daniel Tracey and Eve Wittenberg

Douglas called meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Deer 2020 report review for ConCom:

Thanks given to Pulido for help, and Susan McCarthy for DMS statistics. Douglas remarked that he found it interesting that many more deer were taken by Archery than gun hunting. McCarthy; archery numbers are increasing. (In 2020 - 6655 Archery Harvest, 5129 Shotgun Harvest.) Stats are on the State Website. Mike Huguien FWS Archery has been higher in recent years past.

Douglas asked for feedback on the report.

Cotton “looks good”.

Douglas asked McCarthy for her feedback.

We will meet with ConCom in 2 weeks.

Scouting.

Pulido gave feedback on areas scouted. Four more remaining to see. Will wrap up this month.

Douglas asked FWS does it benefit overall take if there are more properties available for hunting.

“Yes, we are always encouraging with any of these controlled hunts that as many properties are opened as possible - as much acreage as possible. You will be able to have more widespread landscape impacts - in terms of positive ecological impacts from the same deer densities the more properties and the larger properties you have open.”

Douglas: if there is an area in which a few hunters have seen some deer sign but not a lot, is that a property you would recommend we take out of the program?

McCarthy: *“At this time I don’t think we would recommend removing any parcels; we’re going to encourage that as many pieces of property are open as possible. Just because not a lot of deer sign was necessarily found in a given area, doesn’t mean it is not worth hunting, it doesn’t mean that someone would not have success in harvesting deer in that location. I don’t think we would encourage reducing the number of properties especially since the deer numbers in Harvard are a little higher than what we want to see in terms of state goal.”*

She said we are not sky high, so the hunters will need to put in more effort to

harvest deer. *“We would encourage you to have as many properties open as possible”*
This will increase hunter harvest.

Douglas asked if one deer was a successful harvest. *“Yes absolutely”* McCarthy and stated overcoming covid difficulties, logistics, late season, participation, lack of conflicts and incidents, all of these things make it a success. *“Good reasons to keep moving forward.”*

Douglas asked about transects;

McCarthy replied that two deer pellet transects have been done in Harvard, and gave a description of the method. Douglas asked what the end of the pellet counting time would be. Susan replied, usually mid-May leaf out. Douglas will be checking with team members for availability, and we do have ConCom member that will assist.

Cotton gave a report on Minutes; Liz [Allard] found some minutes that had gotten lost in her email between that and the last two approved. We are missing last week, and Jan 28. And tonight's. Douglas: I think we are technically behind only 1 meeting. Thank you Tom and thank you Liz for finding those.

Douglas: We will meet with ConCom next week. Many thanks to FWS Mike, Challis, Susan.

Tracey (24:33) Question on pellet counts from last year and decomposition. Old pellets look like sawdust are distinct from year to year.

Douglas: Any questions Dan [Tracey] or Eve [Wittenberg]?
Wittenberg, *“nope thanks”*. (26:40)

Cotton made motion to adjourn, seconded by Willard.
Meeting adjourned at 7pm.