

05/06/10 Wildlife Management Committee Minutes

Present:

Helena Arouca
Nancy Avers
Jean DeMarco
Patrick O'Rourke
Valerie Palamountain
Ellen Peterson
Gene Rella

Absent

Elaine Hagley

Guests:

Tom Boisvert

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Patrick welcomed the attendees.
3. Agenda was approved as presented.
4. Gene moved to approve the minutes of 04/08/10. Jean seconded. Minutes were approved.
5. Board of Directors Update

No update. There has been no action on the ad hoc committees to date.

6. Member/Guest Comments

No comments.

7. Wildlife Incident Report Process

Jean presented the draft of the new Wildlife Incident Report. The form was streamlined to make it easier to complete online. The form is a checklist and can be completed very quickly. Corrections were made to the form along with recommended changes. Jean will make the changes and present the revised form at the June meeting. Jean will also present the first draft of the Wildlife Enjoyment Report at the June meeting.

8. Educational Plan for 2010

No update.

9. New Business

- a. Two versions of VII. Fencing policy were distributed. Paddy will contact Mike Harrison for the correct version.

Paddy moved that the WMC make no comment on the Lake Monticello Animal Barrier Guide. Jean seconded. Vote: 6 yes. Helena abstained. The motion passed.

Nancy distributed a motion that stated:

I move that the Wildlife Management Committee send the following response to the LMOA Board of Directors in response to their request for advice from the Wildlife Management and Environmental Control committees:

“The Wildlife Management Committee urges the LMOA Board of Directors DISAPPROVE the proposed changes to the fencing regulations.

Our judgment in this matter is based on several compelling arguments:

- 1. Fencing on some properties does not solve the problem. It simply transfers the problem to other (un-fenced) properties, and intensifies the problem on other member-owned properties and open areas owned and maintained by LMOA.*
- 2. It places an additional financial burden on property owners. This is especially unfair when an effective no-cost solution is available.*
- 3. It unfairly allows LMOA to abrogate its responsibility to take centralized action when homeowner property is being systematically destroyed.*
- 4. The ad hoc nature of the proposed fencing regime creates an enforcement nightmare for the LMOA Environmental Control Committee (ECC) and the Compliance Committee. We suppose that is why the proposal seems to erase any ECC/EC oversight of fencing – a dangerous and ill advised precedent that must be rejected.*

We urge the following actions to implement an effective solution, multi-pronged solution:

- 1. Implement a modest culling pilot program during the Fall-Winter of 2010-2011. A controlled bow hunt – at no cost to LMOA or homeowners– is recommended. The pilot program should include (a) common areas, such as the golf course, and (b) at least one residential area.*
- 2. Use lessons learned from the pilot program to adjust procedures and implement further culling actions in the future to achieve and maintain deer herds at desirable levels.*
- 3. Allow fencing that is consistent with ECC regulations, and maintain ECC and Compliance Committee oversight of compliance with those regulations.*
- 4. Continue to explore other methods, including contraception, to maintain herd size once it has been reduced to a desirable level.”*

The motion was denied based on the BOD’s directive that the WMC was no longer to discuss deer culling or contraception.

- b. Meeting Time: The request to change the meeting time was withdrawn.
- c. Nancy moved that the WMC not meet in August, 2010. Jean seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Jean seconded. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 7pm in the Terrace Game Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Palamountain
Co-Chair/Secretary