

Deer Committee Summary and Recommendations

Objective:

The Village of North Haven deer committee was formed in early 2013 to address the problems created by deer in the Village of North Haven NY. The increase in the incidences of Lyme and other tick borne diseases has prompted the Village to look at ways to reduce the tick population. Other issues caused by the large deer population are vehicle accidents caused by deer and the damage to natural plant communities and landscape plantings.

The primary objective of the committee is to make recommendations that will provide the most effective reduction of the deer and tick population and thereby minimizing the impact of the problems they create.

Participants:

Larry Baum	North Haven Manor
Davis Saskas	North Haven Point
Susan Kinsella	West Banks
Chris Miller	West Banks
Steven Hatfield	Oak Drive
Jack Reiser	Ferry Road
Alex Kreigsman	Ferry Road
Joseph Kunzeman	Robertson Drive
Laura Nolan	North Haven Manor & Village Mayor
Jeffrey Sander	Village Trustee

Study:

The committee reviewed a significant amount of literature on the subject of deer management.

Two approaches were studied in depth including the reduction of the deer herd through hunting and reducing the density of ticks and therefore tick diseases through the use of the 4-Poster Program that is used on Shelter Island.

Other approaches were reviewed through available literature and deemed not effective or too costly. These included birth control, trap and relocate, and fencing and other deterrents.

Summary of Findings

Deer Herd Reduction

Advantages:

- Effective in reducing all three of the deer issues.

Numerous studies have shown that deer are the primary host for tick breeding and when the deer are eliminated or reduced substantially the tick population is also substantially reduced.

- Low Cost

Issues:

- Humane issues.

- The herd must be reduced substantially to have a positive effect. (It is

estimated that we would have to reduce the herd to approx. 10 per square mile

which would equal a total of 25-30 deer in North Haven). The aerial deer count that was completed in 2013 showed 104 total deer in the Village.

-Currently restricted to bow & arrow during season Oct 1 through March 31.

-Hunting areas are restricted and must have permission of all home owners within 500ft. Hunting must be 500ft from any home.

-NYS may further restrict seasonal hunting.

-The North Haven seasonal hunting program has not been effective in reducing the herd significantly.

4-Poster Program

Advantages:

-The use of 4-Poster Feeding Stations has significantly reduced the density of ticks where used on Shelter Island and as reported by other studies.

Issues:

-The 4-Poster program does not reduce the deer herd and therefore does not address the issues of vehicular accidents and damage to plants.

-Cost estimated at \$240,000 to \$250,000 per year.

-Deployment and placement. To effectively cover the Village it is estimated that we would need one station per 40-50 acres or a total of about 40 stations.

-Set back restrictions from homes and roadways limits placement of stations. Most stations would have to be placed on private land and would require homeowner approval.

-It is not clear we would have enough locations for station placement to adequately cover the Village.

-Implementing 4-Poster Stations limits hunting.

To effectively implement either of the options we need support from the North Haven Community.

-We need to expand the number of hunting locations on private land to reduce the herd.

- To implement a 4-Poster Program we would need resident support for the funding and placement of feeding stations.

Recommendations

A. Hold a community meeting in July or August 2013 to review the findings of the committee and solicit feedback and support from our residents.

B. Herd reduction:

There are many items that can help increase our hunting and contribute to significantly reducing the deer herd.

Form an ongoing committee to aggressively pursue the following actions.

-Actively solicit neighbors to expand the number of hunting locations in the Village.

-Pursue more hunters and hunting frequency during the hunting season.

-Investigate hiring professional hunters to conduct controlled hunts.

-Investigate renting or buying a refrigerated trailer to assist hunters in the disposal of deer carcasses. Similar to Southold.

-Identify locations that can butcher the carcasses and distribute the meat to those in need.

- Continually interact with neighboring communities to identify other actions that have worked for them.

C. The 4-Poster Program:

The majority of the committee felt that the most effective approach was to aggressively pursue herd reduction and that the 4-Poster Program is too expensive and difficult to implement.

There is however strong support for the 4-Poster Program by some residents and it is still unclear if we can implement all the actions to reduce the herd or if those actions will be effective. More study is also needed to determine if the 4-Poster Program can be implemented and funded.

For these reasons it is recommended that a committee be formed to address the issues associated with the 4-Poster Program and develop a plan which includes,

-Detailed evaluation of costs and implementation plans,

-Station purchase cost.

- Station maintenance
- Feed Cost and storage
- Staffing and administration requirements.
- Station location and coverage.
- Operating periods
- Evaluate funding alternative including,
- Private funding like SI
- Other Government Funding.
- Village funding requirements