

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held a special meeting on Monday, August 16, 2021, at the Village of Lansing Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees, Simon Moll and Patricia O'Rourke, Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney, Bill Troy. (Carolyn Greenwald was in attendance via Zoom so was unable to vote.)

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:30pm. Hardaway opened the public comment period. There was no public comment.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Smith made a motion to close the public comment period. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of August 2, 2021

Moll made a motion to approve minutes. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye	Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Bernd Blossey was present via Zoom to update the Trustees on last year's deer hunt and recommendation for this year. The following is the report previously emailed to the Trustees regarding last year's hunt:

**Village of Lansing Deer Hunting Report**

**2020-21**

Bernd Blossey

**Background**

2020 was the 14<sup>th</sup> year that the village has implemented deer reduction efforts using bow hunting, and the 6<sup>th</sup> where exclusively Deer Depredation Permits (DDP's or nuisance permits) were used. The village also continued use of cross bows. Initially all village permits were DMAP permits (Deer Management Assistant Permits) in addition to permits individual hunters had in their possession. Since 2012/13 the establishment of a Deer Management Focus Area (DMFA) eliminated the need for DMAP tags allowing each

hunter to take 2 antlerless deer/day plus adding a 3-week late January season. While landowner participation in the deer management program of VOL continued to rise, deer harvest rates had declined after peaking in 2011 and 2012 despite continued efforts (Table 1). Starting with a pilot program in winter 2014, the Village implemented an exclusive nuisance approach starting with the 2015 season and this approach has continued into the 2020-21 season.

**2020-21 Deer harvest statistics:**

During the past season, 10 hunters participated and all 10 were successful in harvesting 79 deer during the approved shooting period that ended on 31 March 2021. The deer take is the highest we ever encountered despite restrictions on activities due to Covid-19.

Hunters made 116 trips (almost doubling the effort in the previous year) for a total of approximately 367 volunteer hours (only hours in stand are counted). This equates to about 5 hours of effort needed to harvest a deer, a great level of effectiveness. Nevertheless, there are certain locations where individuals were unable to take deer (Table 1).

**Age and sex distribution:**

The age and sex distribution in 2019-20 was skewed substantially in favor of adults and in favor of does.

Adult does: 33

Does <1 year old: 10

Adult bucks: 24

Bucks <1 year old: 12

**Table 1:** Properties/groups of properties and deer harvest rates in VOL since 2007. (Only properties with stand use are listed. A – indicates that the property was not part of the portfolio in a particular year or season. The parentheses in the column summarizing deer harvest rates in 2014 represent deer taken during the DDP period over bait. For 2015 and later years numbers represent DDP exclusively.

Property	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14 (DDP)	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	20
Leopold	11	2	5	9	3	2	1	13(13)	0	1	0	0	7	15
Lempert/Novarr	-	-	7	7	4	8	4	4	-	0	4	7	1	11
Bieri/Adelson	-	-	21	6	22	10	13	17(12)	19	12	14	10	10	10
Street/Butler/Dennis	-	-	-	21	14	14	4	9(2)	6	2	0	1	0	1
Autumn Ridge	-	-	-	-	13	2	8	4	6	1	-	-	-	-
Park/Cayuga Heights Road	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	4	6	11	9	4	7	7
Route 13	-	-	-	-	5	2	5	4	1	3	2	3	3	3
Abrams	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bomax	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	2(1)	4	3	4	-	-	-
Spanswick/Travis	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swearingen	-	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seacord	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	4(2)	1	-	0	-	-	-
Cornell Business Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	2	3	0	19
Dean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	0	0	-
Craig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dart Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	3	4	1	3	3
Bolton Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schleelein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	-	-	-	-
Miller lands									5	1	2	0	2	-
Coventry Walk									0	0	0	5	5	10
Brentwood Drive									2	4	-	-	-	-
Unaccounted for in qualtrix											4	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>79</b>

While we maintained the number of properties in the portfolio of landowners allowing deer management activities, not all properties were used and deer were not taken off several properties (Table 1). We also had to abandon a number of sites due to the continued DEC issued set-back distances for bait piles from public roads (>150 feet), and we lost the Bomax location due to a housing development. In other locations, participants were discouraged by infrequent and wary deer (survivors are well educated by know). Particularly those participants relying on daytime activities without use of lights after sunset failed in large parts showing the importance of shooting after dark. Part of this is expected as deer numbers decline in VOL, but much deer movement occurred in the middle of the night. And very few participants ventured out past midnight, as anticipated. But their dedication and a switch to infrared crossbows by some made all the difference.

Nevertheless, participants saw 331 deer while on location representing a little less (0.9) than one deer per hour of observation. The number of deer seen per hour of treestand observation is nearly identical to the previous season. But large groups are now rarely

reported, except later in the winter when conditions become harsh. Trail camera's show that in the middle of the night, aggregations can still form around the feeders. Most of the deer taken were in the first 3 months of the season, in part explained by more participant activity early and then reduced numbers.

### **Time of harvest:**

October: 21  
November: 10  
December: 21  
January: 8  
February: 6  
March: 4

We continue to keep track of efforts using qualtrix reporting. We found that deer ran on average 46 yards before collapsing with the maximal distance at 140 yards.

In 2020-21 we could not recover 4 deer (or 4.8%) after they were hit, mostly in dense brush (multiflora rose and honeysuckles). Most of the deer shot were kept by participants for self-consumption but some were donated.

### **Outlook and recommendation for 2020-21**

Despite difficulties, the deer harvest rate in VOL remains high, even increased despite the fact that many landowners report an improvement in growth of understory plants and flowers, but oak recruitment, judged by planting of seedlings at several locations (Rt13 playground site, and Leopold's) in the village is still greatly suppressed and further deer reductions are warranted. The deer program appears to move into the right direction, although very slowly. The aggressive efforts by Cayuga Heights, removing deer through darting followed by euthanasia may assist in herd reductions in VOL through prevention of immigration. The Town of Ithaca also began their own DDP in 2019 but at only a few select sites with none close to VOL.

The challenges that remain are to increase or maintain participation by shooters. Due to Covid restrictions we did not make efforts to include the DPW site - but plan on doing so in 2021. The Bomax shooting location is permanently lost due to construction at the site, and efforts on the previous Miller properties was very low last season and in 2020 no deer were reported taken. This leaves an important corner of VOL with little pressure or ability to take deer and the need to target this subherd. Otherwise, I recommend that the same approach be followed as for the previous season but extending the operational period from potentially mid-September to end of March.

Blossey stated that this past year we have taken more deer this year than ever before. We changed the way we operated in tree and hunters had more time with COVID. The changes included hunters using crossbow and with the use of inferred they were able to take deer between the hours 12-6am. We do not overshoot. There are plenty of deer at the feeder.

The Village Code currently allows crossbow use if the individual and landowner agree and then the mayor must sign off on this. Blossey asked if the Board would just allow crossbow use and not have the requirement of having the mayor sign off. To change the Codification a new local law would be needed. Hardaway will check the law and the Board can make a decision by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Blossey also requested that they be able to start baiting in September instead of October 1<sup>st</sup>. This would allow a 14-day conditioning period as long as the landowners are ok with it. Simon stated that it does take a while to train the deer to come in. Smith thinks it would be fine if they get permission from the landowners. Hardaway has no objections to trying this for a year to see if it works.

Blossey will prepare the DDP materials needed for submission to the NYSDEC which will need the mayor's signature. This includes the main application and the justification that should go along with it. Blossey will get this to Dake so the mayor can sign.

Resolution #6772- To Authorize the Mayor to Sign the NYSDEC Deer Damage Permit Application

Trustee O'Rourke made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee Moll seconded the motion.

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith- Aye  
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Another issue that Blossey would like to discuss was regarding hunting behind the garage. This will be discussed at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was authorized for the last two years but it has never been implemented. With covid they did not want to go door to door.

Blossey stated that the corn supplier, Genoa Farms, may change from bag corn to a gravity feed wagon. Moll asked if the price will be less if a gravity fed wagon is used instead of bags. Blossey assumes so but does not know the price yet. Trumansburg does a gravity feed bag. Blossey will work out the details.

Troy stated that he read that 40% of white tail that were shot were found to be covid positive. Troy wondered how reliable this information was. Blossey will research this and get back to the Board.

### **Energy Supply Contract**

Our current energy supplier contracts are expiring in October. Dake has gathered quotes and the lowest quote is from Hudson Energy for a fixed rate of \$0.0454/kwh for 24 months. The second lowest electric supply quote is \$.04695/kwh for 24 months from Mirabito. Previously we have used Progressive Energy Consultants to find us the best rate and they were the ones that got us the Hudson Energy Quote. Hudson also gave us a quote for \$0.0492 for 37 months if we wanted to go longer.

Resolution #6773- To Authorize the Village to Enter a Energy Supply Contract with Hudson Energy Consultants for a Fixed Rate of \$0.0454/kwh for 24 months

Trustee Moll made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee Smith seconded the motion.

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith- Aye  
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

**Mayor's Comments**

Hardaway asked about the Murray Estate check for \$2,227.62 which needed his signature. Dake stated that Tompkins County Assessment left off the Ag Ceiling Exemption on the 2021-22 Tax Bill. Therefore, Murray Estates is entitled to a refund. This is for 5 different parcels that are part of Sundown Farms.

Hardaway asked the Board if they want to consider drafting and sending a resolution to New York State asking that they allow remote meetings. Dake suggested that the mayor contact NYCOM for a model resolution since that is something they are also supporting. The Board was all for this.

Hardaway stated that there was a nice celebration for Hartill's retirement yesterday at Marian Hartill Park.

Motion- To Adjourn

Moll motioned to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Simon Moll-Aye  
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer