

Notes from September 21, 2022 Deer Management Task Force Meeting

Discussed Survey. There has been feedback that some people feel that the survey may be skewed towards promoting deer control. We discussed the facts: 1. The survey was a modified version of the surveys used in other upstate communities and was created and vetted by both the DEC and Cornell University. These surveys are also included in the toolbox links on the Nature Conservancy website. The work group modified the survey so that it reflected the concerns of the city of Oneonta. Changes that were made included impacts on farmer and agricultural areas and hunting in forested areas. A modification was made to include “tick-borne diseases” rather than just Lyme disease.

There were concerns about the online survey. There were a couple of questions that required a response or the survey could not be submitted. This was addressed already and the online survey was modified to allow “no response.”

Printed surveys should include the online website address.
The logo for the DEC and Cornell should be included.

A question arose about the possibility of inputting the paper surveys online. The online survey will tabulate results and create graphs and charts.

Our response to the feedback will be:

Thank you. Your input is very important. The issues with the questions have been corrected. If you are completing the online survey there is a section at the end for your additional comments.

It is important for us to not engage in arguments. We can be completely transparent and state that we are a group of volunteers with the goal of collecting as much data from as many city residents as we can. We however are not experts at designing surveys. We used the survey format provided by the DEC and Cornell University and that have been used successfully by other upstate NY communities. Again, thank people for their suggestions and let them know that we are listening and will make changes when issues arise.

DEC Public Educational Meeting. September 28, at 7:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Ford Ave

A community calendar announcement was sent to the Daily Star. Members with Facebook pages will post information. We will ask the mayor to post the information to his page and if possible the city's page.

Sandy wrote an article about the deer facing a hard winter and included information about the DEC meeting. The article was sent to the Hometown Oneonta (they were happy to have it and will publish it) and the Daily Star (no response yet)

Susan Brunswick, Marge, Betsy, Joe and Joann will meet at the UU church at 6:00 to set up chairs. Marge has the key.

The mayor was asked to welcome the attendees, help set the tone, and introduce the guest speakers. He has a meeting that starts at 7 at city hall, so he'll be a few minutes late.

At the end of the presentation by DEC we will open it up to questions from the audience. The questions should be directed towards the DEC representative. Joe and Joann will close the meeting at 8ish.

Otsego Media Group

Mark asked the Otsego Media Group to film the meeting and possibly include educational information about deer issues in our area. They agreed, and will volunteer their services. I sent links to our online survey, Oh Deer! Video, Deer Population Facts from Cornell U, and Future of the Forest video.

Email to Council Members inviting them to the Meeting.

The Mayor will send out emails to council members inviting them to the DEC meeting.

OCI Grant

Wendy just finished the OCI grant and is sending it in. Thank you!

Please let me know if I forgot anything! We are making great progress.