

Deer Management Taskforce

Goals and Timelines:

- Educate community about deer biology and impacts
- Survey community to determine (1) understanding of deer impact (2) number of community members who want deer impacts to be addressed
- Develop transparent and inclusive decision making process
- Write a management plan and share with community

Timeline:

TBD by group. Goal: Proposal Draft ready by December

Resources:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Community Deer Management. Provides overview with links to more resources. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104961.html>.
- Link to Community Deer Management Guide from the above link. It's a 36 page guide that provides in depth information about deer population.
- Cornell University and the Nature Conservancy. Community Deer Advisor: Decision support for communities managing deer. The resource library has sample survey tools, templates for communication, management plans and more. It provides examples of how other communities created plans and how they worked. <https://deeradvisor.dnr.cornell.edu/>

Discussion:

Actions:

Determine regular meeting time for taskforce.

Read through all resources.

Prepare questions or concerns to bring to the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Establish work groups

Notes from August 26 Deer Management Task Force Meeting

• Review and Approval of Deer Survey

Changes that need to be made: Ward question only at beginning of survey; title/cover page revised: official city seal and reference to DEC and Cornell (with their logos) as a header on pages in an effort to save paper.

Test the survey with a friend and time how long it typically takes to complete

Plan for Survey Collection

Goal is to get as many responses as possible from all viewpoints.

Create an online survey (Mark D and I will work on creating this) with a link that can be shared on a variety of platforms. Suggested links: Council Member's websites/email blasts; Nixle (Betsy will check to see if this is possible); Press release; Club/church/organization newsletters;

Survey is only for Oneonta City residents. If collecting data, ask this question before beginning. The ward question at the beginning will provide this for online participants. Students can be included.

Reach out to SUNY and Hartwick students to help. Mark D will reach out to both colleges

(Just thought of this) Is there a High School Environmental club? Would they be willing or able to help?

Local Events

Grand and Glorious Garage Sale: Sunday, Sept. 11 in Neahwa Park. The Garden Club will share a booth with us.

Please send additional events that you know are happening in the next two months

Schedule

I will attach a form for folks to sign up for desired times. I will also bring a hard copy to our next meeting.

Press Release

Press Release will include a link to online survey and link to Oh Deer video. Who would like to write the Press Release

Discussion:

Community education on Impact of Deer

Set up meeting with DEC and presentation of Oh Deer video

Question about why so many female and not as many male deer.

Banner (lawn sale size) with City Logo

Next meeting

Tentatively Thursday, Sept. 1 @ 4:15 in person at city hall. I will check calendar and availability of space and email info at the beginning of the week

● **Deer Management Task Force Meeting Notes for September 1, 2022**

This is a combination of our discussion and answers from Mark to our questions. Answers are italicized.

Online Survey:

- Survey can be sent to city residents via Nixle
- *Submitted surveys will be sent to Kerri Harrington, City Clerk*
- *In addition to the QR code, a URL link to the survey can be created*
- *Survey has the capability of tabulating results and creating charts and graphs*
- Poster and card-size sheet will be created for Grand and Glorious (G&G) with links to the online survey and educational links (Oh Deer, DEC page, Cornell/Nature Conservancy page, YouTube link from the 2/8/22 Oneonta Environmental Board
- Check to see if a link to the city ward map can be inserted.

Paper Survey:

- Marge will deliver surveys in her neighborhood.
- Will be available at the G&G
- *Pick up/ Drop off box will be set up at City Hall at the City Clerk's window.*

General Survey Info:

- Target date for completion: October 15
- Ask Council Members to inform constituents of the survey
- *I figured out the real number of registered voters in the city: 5,400. So a target of about 20% responses is 1,080 would be ideal.*

Funding for Task Force

- Discussed being mindful of the amount of donations from task force members. Sandy has donated the banner that will be used at events.
- The Quality of Life and Infrastructure Committee tasked Mark with creating a proposed plan for deer management, which might mean that they can fund the effort.
- *There is an Oneonta Community Initiative (OCI) Grant that can fund projects. Here is a link for the site with the application form: <https://www.destinationoneonta.com/oci-program>. The application is pretty easy. We will need the costs of materials and meeting rentals...TBD at the next meeting or email?*

Press Release and Contact Person:

- Susan and Cary wrote the press release. *Can you please resend it to the group. We need a contact person. I'm willing to do that but am more than happy to have someone else take this on. 😊*

Attachments:

- **Schedule Sign Up for G&G:** *attachment in email*
- **Links for Online Survey:** <https://swrmn0fx.paperform.co/>
- **Links for Educational Sites:** [Oh Deer! How Deer Shape Forests in the Catskills & Beyond.](#) Webinar that describes that explains the impact deer

Grand and Glorious Report September 11, 2022

- We set up a table and tent with the Oneonta Garden Club. Thank you Wendy!
- Sandy brought the banner, which looks great. She made a display for the table which included the QR code. We had an opportunity to help lots of folks learn how to use their phone camera to download the survey.
- We had about 100 paper surveys available but are encouraging people to take the online survey.
- Joe, Susan Lister, Wendy, Sandy, Marge, and I worked the table

- We had quite a few visitors and lots of good conversation. I think it was a perfect chance for people to begin thinking about their own thoughts about the impact of deer in the city. *Note: next time let's keep a tally.*
- Susan suggested that we make lawn-size signs to place around town with the QR code link to the survey.
- I will ask Kerri Harrington if we can submit paper surveys in the online format. She is out of town right now, so I'll report back when I know.
- I placed a box at the City Clerk Office Window labeled for return paper surveys.
- Wendy is taking on writing the OCI grant to fund our materials. When we get together again, bring all your ideas for materials or rental of a site for a meeting so that it can be included in the grant request. Save any receipts for items you may have already purchased, and send the amounts to Wendy so that she can include them in the grant request.
- Destination Oneonta Oneonta is having a Harvest Party in Neahwa Park, October 2 from 12-4. We can have a table for free at this event : www.destinationoneonta.com. Anyone interested in working at the table?

Next meeting: 4:15 Wednesday, September 21. I will get with Mark to make sure we have a City Hall meeting place and will get back to the group.

Thank you!!

Betsy

- Suggestions on how to restore both a healthy deer population and healthy diverse forests. <https://www.caryinstitute.org/news-insights/lecture-video/oh-deer-how-deer-shape-forests-catskills-beyond>.

Deer Population Facts from Cornell University

<http://wp.wildlifecontrol.info/cornell-deer-study/deer-populations/>

Future of the Forest: White-tail Deer and their Impact

<http://www.conservationbridge.org/casestudy/the-future-of-the-forest->

- **Updated Contact Sheet for Task Force members:**
attached to email
- **Environmental Board mtg on 2/8/22 with DEC:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSIxrYUqZek>

Email Communications Summary

- Wendy is gathering information and is writing an OCI grant
- Cathie reported progress of the taskforce to the Environmental Board
- Sandy wrote an article for The Hometown Oneonta and The Daily Star about the impact of overpopulation of deer on the health of the herd, the environment, and people. Included invitation for public meeting with the DEC
- DEC was contacted and will hold a public informational meeting September 28 at 7:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.
- Marge and friend are delivering paper surveys to their neighborhood.
- Plans will be made for the October 2 Harvest Fest in Neahwa Park.
- Next meeting September 21 at 4:15