

## Deer Management Meeting w/ City of Ann Arbor & MDNR

Date: August 19, 2016

Location: City Hall via Teleconference

In Attendance:

Tom Crawford (via Telephone)	City of Ann Arbor
Derek Delacourt	City of Ann Arbor
Mary Fales	City of Ann Arbor
Steven Schantz	City of Ann Arbor
Kristin Bissell (via Telephone)	MDNR

### **Meeting Purpose**

To gain better understanding of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) process for deer cull permitting and to discuss how the City of Ann Arbor (City) can work with the MDNR to ensure an effective deer cull in the winter of 2017.

### **Meeting Summary**

MDNR informed the City they are developing a strategy to improve education and information pertaining to deer management and deer culls. MDNR will provide updates to the City as their education and information strategy develops.

MDNR suggested the City send cull permit requests as early as possible with detailed information on preferred methods, means, and number of deer requested to cull during the winter of 2017.

Mary Fales asked for some clarification from the MDNR regarding language referring to permit dates, i.e. permits issued in December but start date was January with language stating the permits are only valid in the year issued. Mary also asked about clarification of the terminology regarding termination of the permits. Kristin Bissell informed the City that she would raise the questions to MDNR's Legal Department and communicate those responses to the City.

The City asked if baiting before the cull permit periods is legal and allowed. MDNR stated that permits are not issued for baiting and the City should follow the State of Michigan regulations regarding hunting and baiting.

The City asked if both lethal and non-lethal deer management activities can be conducted simultaneously. MDNR response was for the City to propose any cull activity ideas during the cull permit process, to include any simultaneous non-lethal activities.

The City asked if alternative culling methods can be utilized. MDNR response was, propose any alternative culling methods via the cull permit process.

The City asked for specifics on setbacks for darting of deer during non-lethal deer management. Ms. Bissell stated she didn't know the answer to the question but would inquire on her end and communicate to the City if more information was gathered.

MDNR stated that if the City wants to explore the removal of additional deer outside of the cull permits, one idea the City may want to explore would be the removal of deer via State of Michigan deer hunting seasons.

MDNR suggested the City objectives and metrics regarding deer management be related to community satisfaction rates. MDNR also suggested the City explore metrics with regards to trends for deer density versus using specific deer density rates gathered solely from helicopter counts. MDNR suggested that helicopter flyovers may not help with immediate goal setting and evaluation of the deer management situation within the City of Ann Arbor. Ms. Bissell did state the MDNR does utilize deer/vehicle accidents as trend data.