

ALLENDALE

Minutes of the Board of Health

December 3, 2015

ROLL CALL: A regular meeting of the Allendale Board of health was held in the Municipal Building on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Bruce Beck.

The following members were present: Nadine Benoit, Maria Crean, Susan Toron, Robin Iversen, Christopher Martin and Bruce Beck. Absent was Linda Morgan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The November 2015 Minutes were accepted with a motion to approve by Maria Crean and seconded Christopher Martin.

SECRETARY/REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Adult Health Clinic - Adult Health Clinic will be held on 12/17/15
Child Health Clinic – No children attended.

Vital Statistics – 5 Deaths 1 Marriage 0 Births

Receipts - \$28.00 in Marriage Licenses, \$120 in Certified Copies
totaling \$148.00.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Tyco Animal Control Contract – All were in favor of renewing it for 2016.

HEALTH OFFICER/SANITARY REPORTS

-Dairy Queen was inspected and same was satisfactory.

-Inspected Clyde's and they were satisfactory.

-Masa Sushi was re-inspected and were much improved from their previous conditional report.

-Allendale Bar and Grill was inspected and satisfactory.

-Inspected Mezza Luna and they were fine.

-Savini's was also inspected and they were very very good.

-It was mentioned that Acme Supermarket had some spoiled chicken in their refrigerators. I went in and could not find any chicken that was outdated. The refrigerators are all holding temperatures so at this time everything was fine. There was also a complaint about their produce. However, I will be doing a full inspection at the beginning of next year since they have been inspected four times during 2015 between A&P and Acme.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

-Nadine Benoit and Bruce Beck have agreed to serve another three year term on the Board of Health

-2016 Board of Health meeting dates have been approved. Motion was made by Robin Iversen and seconded by Christopher Martin

-Carol Tyler from Tyco Animal Control was invited to our meeting to speak about Allendale's growing deer population. Carol began by acknowledging we have a lot of them, obviously, and continued to say that Saddle River, too, is struggling with what to do.

Fifteen years ago we noticed the problem starting and ten years ago we watched it grow into a critical mass. We don't get deer just in September, October and November; we are euthanizing and picking up dead deer year round now. There is no quiet season. Come April, Tyco is dragging the starved deer out of the woods because there is not enough food for them. The artificially provided food is not there in the Winter whereas during the Summer, everyone is putting out corn and salt licks, which just makes the population grow. There is no easy answer.

Residents don't realize that deer breed at the rate of the food supply. The food supply here in Bergen County includes both real and created artificial food. A Doe routinely has twins, which is not natural. Because they are so well fed, they are breeding at a very high rate. Predators are down. Every other County has hunting where 2,000 or 3,000 deer are taken. There is no real hunting in Bergen County and where there is hunting, an average of only 44 are legally taken. Deer are now breeding at three times the rate they used to and today nothing is checking their population but cars. Tyco picked up six deer off of the roads today and the breeding season is over. We are euthanizing deer at a very, very high rate and during September we put at least twelve deer to sleep a day, not counting the ones found lying on the road. The deer get

caught on fences, by neighborhood pets and in soccer nets. They just don't know where to go.

Irresponsible feeding is a big problem. Any wildlife you feed will come out of balance whether it is deer, coyotes, feral cats, etc. What does help are stricter laws on feeding wildlife. Deer have become so used to humans that they have no fear. They are actually getting food from garbage cans. It is not unusual to see ten or fifteen deer in someone's backyard. There is really nothing Tyco can do about deer in a yard because if we go chase them, they run out into traffic. Fish and Wildlife does not have an answer, except to hunt.

We first have to reduce the out-of-control numbers of deer, as we also see this same trend with coyotes and bears. They are so out of control that human life is now at risk. The Court Clerk's son in Wyckoff died in a motorcycle accident last year because a deer jumped out in front of him. More people are getting hurt in motor vehicle accidents. Last year there were 560 deer related motor vehicle accidents in Bergen County, not to mention damage to property.

If you call for a hunt, which is what the State will tell you to do, you will get what is going on in Saddle River right now; the protests. I have been to Saddle River's meetings and there are more out-of-town residents attending than in-town residents. At this point the in-town residents don't know what they want to do.

Despite that, Saddle River is going to allocate certain properties, supervise what is going on and allow certain people with proper qualifications to hunt. They have to have a hunting permit, to have proven themselves with a bow, and must restrict the cull to 5 Bucks and 20 Does. Unfortunately, in Allendale there is only one location, or maybe two, that would be suitable. Saddle River is talking about five acre properties and Allendale does not have that.

Culls have been done all over the State but nowhere in Bergen County. Saddle Ridge Park in West Paterson did a cull. East Orange South Mountain Arena do culls every year and 70-90 deer are taken per year, and it has helped. They say there is no study that shows whether it will help the foliage or ecological balance. If deer aren't eating the little saplings they will grow up to be trees. Lyme's Disease is not a big issue. The mature ticks live on the deer, however they actually start out on rodents. Ticks thrive on the high rich blood of rodents because their young bodies cannot ingest the live larva from deer, however, as they get bigger they move onto a larger host. By killing off all the deer, there would no host. Tick management will not be addressed by killing off all the deer.

Also, people bring up a gentler means of control such as sterilization especially since deer are breeding year round now. The problem is that the population is so large that sterilization is not an economically feasible option at this time as we first have to reduce the out-of-control numbers. Additionally, deer do not respond well to chemicals. When a deer is hurt on a highway they have to be euthanized and the

minute or two before it takes effect they jump back up and get into worse trouble. That is why Animal Control and police officers use fire arms. A deer on drugs is an unpredictable, dangerous animal. To spay or neuter them, or chemically neuter them, is a very risky business and the State of New Jersey only recognizes one form of chemical sterilization and that has to be injected into the vein. We do not know the long term effects of chemical sterilization or physical sterilization on wildlife. It has never been studied. Once we neuter them we say we did a good thing. However, new deer will arrive and the new deer will attack and injure the deer that no longer have their drive. Wildlife lives for three reasons – they eat, they sleep and they procreate. We are taking away thirty-three percent of their reason to live.

What they are talking about as far as sterilization is done in parklands where they can fence in ten acres and catch the deer in there. They would have to be found, tranquilized and held somewhere for the seven hour recovery time. Additionally you would have to find some person who will give you about nine million dollars to sterilize the deer. However, this would not work here in Bergen County.

We are not allowed to use tranquilizers on deer since they don't do well tranquilized. We cannot sterilize them using dart guns, because you have to put it into their veins. We are not allowed to do a hunt in the area because Bergen County doesn't have anywhere large enough to hunt. I feel the responsibility falls back on the County Freeholders. They should be opening up the County parks two weeks out of every year to allow hunting. By doing so, they would ease the numbers because if we took the deer out of the County parks the smaller deer that are forced into these towns, would be able to go back into the larger areas. Also, they need to take some action because the County owns the largest mass parkland in this area and this would be the only place where a hunt may be held.

For Allendale, one option might be at the Celery Farm, where bow hunters would be in a tree stand shooting down, although you really don't have a lot of trees to hold a tree stand. Another area may be by Crestwood Lake, which would have to close for about three weeks, however, there are no places to set up tree stands. So, I really don't know where you could do anything like this in Allendale.

Fish & Wildlife will happily come up here and assist Allendale do a cull. They would point out the areas where it can be done, however the town could deal with a lot of bad publicity. But ultimately, if food sources drop down the deer will breed at a slower rate. This will not eliminate the problem but will stop it from getting worse.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

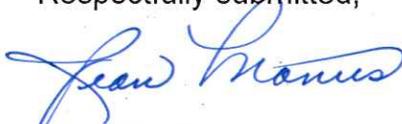
-Nothing new to report.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-No one came forward.

A motion to adjourn was made by Christopher Martin and seconded by Robin Iversen. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Manus, Secretary
Allendale Board of Health