



Health, Education & Welfare Committee Agenda **October 17, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

Health, Education & Welfare Committee

Dara Wood, Chair
Keely Paul
Jay Shatz

Staff Liason

Scot Lahrmer, Village
Manager
Chris Fritsch, Zoning
Brian Baker, Sergeant

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes: September 27, 2021

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. Deer Management Program

ADJOURNMENT

Health, Education, Welfare committee

9/27/2021 minutes

Attendees: Natalie Wolf (chair), Elida Kamine (committee member), Ray Warren (absent committee member)

Scot Lahrmer, Lt. Brian Blum, Tom Muething

Residents: Louis Katz, Bruce Lazarus, Josephine Rosenblum

Minutes of May 19, 2021, were approved

1. Deer Culling Report:
 - a. Lt. Blum presented the annual deer culling report, which is required as part of Amberley's Deer Management Policy. The Police Department is permitted to cull up to 50 deer annually without additional approval from Village Council. In 2019 and 2020, 50 deer were culled, each year. All deer were culled from residents' back yards by crossbow sharpshooters. None were taken from Amberley Green or French Park and Lt. Blum reported that they don't anticipate any culling in those areas this year. The neighborhood program has been successful, and residents who participate are very happy to do so.
2. The committee agreed with staff that the deer program appears to be working and approved the continuation for 2021-22.
3. The venison was donated to non-profit food pantries.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Natalie Wolf

TO: Village Council
FROM: Scot F. Lahrmer, Village Manager
DATE: October 5, 2017
RE: Amending the Deer Management Policy for Amberley Village

ITEM: Resolution 2017-35, Revising Deer Management Program

ACTION REQUESTED: By motion, adopt **Resolution 2017-35** amending the deer management program to allow for deer culling with crossbows.

PURPOSE: To establish a program to maintain the deer population and ensure a healthy deer herd.

Prior to our current deer management policy, the Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Committee held several meetings to seek input in developing a deer management policy for the Village. Resident input was received and the Committee sought input from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), the Cincinnati Park Board, City of Wyoming and Amberley's Police Department.

The HEW Committee concluded that it was in the best interest of the Village to:

1. Protect against property damage caused by deer.
2. Protect against danger to human life caused by deer-related vehicle accidents.
3. Maintain a deer population that is acceptable from a safety and nuisance perspective.
4. Ensure a healthy deer herd and sustainability of other wildlife.

The result was the adoption of Resolution 2012-52 in November 2012 which outlined the following actions:

1. Conduct a deer count beginning in 2013 via a thermal imaging camera for better accuracy and do one every third year.
2. Police will cull up to 50 deer each year.
3. Monitoring of deer vehicle accidents, citizen complaints, surveying and a review of the data gathered will be reviewed by the HEW Committee.

Each year, the HEW reviews the policy for deer management to determine if changes are needed. Residents continue to be frustrated by the number of deer living in their backyards. Our Police Department spends significant resources culling deer in French Park and Amberley Green however, very few deer are visible on Amberley Green.

In June, an option was presented to cull deer with crossbows on private property. Residents have requested to shoot deer on their own property and bow hunt the deer. The idea was discussed and brought back to the Committee on October 2. The Committee considered the benefits and risks involved and concurred that a pilot program should be pursued for culling deer with crossbows to be conducted by the same personnel that are conducting the sharpshooting with rifles. In particular, two adjacent properties in the north end of the Village on Arborcrest were identified as an ideal location to embark on the pilot program.

After significant discussion, the Committee concurred and recommended our deer management policy be amended by allowing deer culling with crossbows on private property being conducted by Police personnel. The Committee stipulated the owners of private property would be notified and adjacent neighbors would be informed of the culling. Our Police Department will administer the program with its own personnel.

In conferring with Lt. Brian Blum and Law Director Kevin Frank, our deer management policy should be amended to reflect that the deer culling with crossbows will be conducted by the same personnel that are conducting the sharpshooting with rifles. Therefore the deer management policy is proposed to be amended with this change. Our Police Department will implement the pilot program and report back to the HEW next year to determine if it was successful in our efforts to overall cull up to 50 deer per year.

Adoption of Resolution 2017-35 is recommended for adoption.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

PASSED: October 9, 2017
BY: Wolf

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-35

RESOLUTION REVISING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, the number of deer in Ohio was estimated at 17,000, which at the time warranted programs to manage the population; over the past 30 years, the numbers have increased dramatically, and are now estimated at about 750,000 statewide;

WHEREAS, Amberley Village is greatly benefitted by the amount of green space and wildlife, which enhances the quality of life in the Village; The Village consists of approximately 2,240 acres (3.5 square miles). There are 403 acres of green space including French Park, a City of Cincinnati public park of 257 acres, and Amberley Green, which is an undeveloped Village-owned property of 133 acres;

WHEREAS, the significant increase in the number of deer in recent years requires that the Village appropriately manage the deer population;

WHEREAS, in response to numerous complaints relating to property damage from deer activity, Amberley Village first implemented a deer management program in 2007, which was revised in 2012 and has continued to be monitored to the present time;

WHEREAS, Council determines that it is in the best interest of the Village and its residents, in order to protect against property damage caused by deer, and danger to human life caused by vehicle accidents with deer, to modify the deer management program in order to better address the needs and resources of the Village;

WHEREAS, the Health, Education, & Welfare Committee met to consider changes to the deer management program, and recommends the changes to Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Council of Amberley Village, State of Ohio, seven (7) members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1:

(A) The Village will conduct a deer count by thermal imaging technology every third year. In order to control costs, the Village Manager may enter into an agreement to share costs with the City of Cincinnati, which owns and operates French Park within Amberley Village, as both jurisdictions benefit from a reduced deer herd in this area, or other neighboring jurisdictions.

(B) The Village is permitted to cull up to 50 deer per calendar year without additional approval by Council. If the Village Police Department determines that, due to

increased complaints of property damage or an increase in deer vehicle accidents, a higher number of deer should be culled, the Police Department may make a request to the Health, Education, & Welfare Committee to increase the number of deer culled.

(C) Deer culling shall only be conducted by members of the Amberley Village Police Department as authorized by the Police Chief. Culling shall be achieved by trained sharpshooters or crossbows.

(D) Prior to culling, notices shall be posted around the culling area warning persons of the activity, and all culling areas shall be closed to the public. Culling may not be performed on private property without written permission from the owner and a release from legal liability approved by the Solicitor. Any such permission granted shall continue in perpetuity until withdrawn by the owner.

(E) The management of the deer population shall include a monitoring program which includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. Deer Vehicle Accidents (DVA) -- Amberley Village Police will continue to monitor the number of reported and unreported DVAs occurring within Amberley Village, and will monitor reports of injured deer and deer carcasses collected in the Village. The Village will collect and maintain records of deer vehicle accidents and property damage complaints via an online form accessible on the Village website. Residents may self-report incidents on the web form. Information collected by the Village will be reviewed by the Health, Education, & Welfare Committee once per calendar year in September, in order to assess whether appropriate records are being maintained.

2. Citizen Complaints – Residential complaints received by the Village will be entered into a database to be utilized in monitoring progress of selected control methods and providing guidance in recommending modifications. Complaints of deer damage or traffic related issues can be made directly to the Administration office or by utilizing the Deer Damage Report on the Village's website. This information will be provided to Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife personnel.

3. Harvested Animal Inventory – If required by the Ohio Division of Natural Resources, pertinent data such as sex of deer, age (estimated), and weight should be logged on each animal harvested or removed by other means. Date, time and location should also be included if the information is available.

4. Public Opinion Surveys – Village staff will establish a form for residents to access online in order to self-report property damage, injured deer sightings, and unreported DVAs. Additionally, the Health, Education, and Welfare committee will survey residents by any available online survey in order to gauge resident feedback regarding deer management.

5. All data collected by the Village will be periodically reviewed by the Health, Education, & Welfare committee not less than once per calendar year. Any

changes or amendments to the Village deer management program shall be made and brought before Council's regularly scheduled October meeting, if necessary.

SECTION 2: The Health, Education & Welfare Committee shall revisit and review this resolution every third year, in the year after the latest deer count.

SECTION 3: If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this resolution shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this resolution as a whole, or any other part hereof.

SECTION 4: That this resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest date allowed by law.

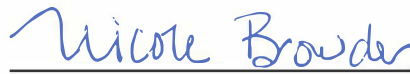
Passed this 9th day of October, 2017.


Mayor Thomas C. Muething

Attest:


Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

I, Clerk of Council of Amberley Village, Ohio, certify that on the 16th day of October 2017, the forgoing Resolution was published pursuant to Article IX of the Home Rule Charter by posting true copies of said Resolution at all of the places of public notice as designed by Sec. 31.40(B), Code of Ordinances.


Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council