

WILDLIFE COMMITTEE JANURARY MEETING MINUTES

The Wildlife Committee held its regular meeting Jan.28th, 2019.

In attendance were members Jim Trump, Jim Jeffers, Carl Whalen, John Reilly and Chair Gene Pendolino.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Meeting Agenda:

Harvest Report

Hunter Violations decisions and vote

Stands and blinds removed from property

Discussions on WL-2, WL-3, Violation changes

Coyote Problems reported

Exterior gates issues

The chair reported the harvest for the season is 124 total deer. 13 of those were bucks. The number is unofficial until the individual reports are reconciled to the security totals.

The chair reported on several incidents involving hunter violations that need further attention by the Committee.

Incident One: Incident involved a hunter was found to be hunting with an unapproved weapon in area 1794 off Clear Run Rd. The hunter claimed he was not aware and not told the area was not approved for flintlock hunting.

The hunter was dropped off at this area by a long time member of the program who was aware of the restriction. Also, hunter was made aware of the rule at the orientation and by committee members at the proficiency shoot they preformed.

The chair reported the known facts of the incident and additionally spoke with the hunter involved.

The hunter claimed he was not told of the restriction by anyone.

Incident Two: Incident involved a hunter who approached a residence within Treasure Lake and attempted to gain permission to use a phone to call for a ride home. The hunter persisted at the residence after being told to leave the property. The hunter did not leave when told to do so. Security was called but did not respond.

The chair reminded the committee of the rule that was violated but also noted that the hunter was persistent in his actions.

One hunter was suspended for the remainder of the year for a blaze orange violation. This hunter is also required to take the PA Hunter Education program again before being eligible to enter the program for the next year.

The chair reported that the Committee removed 3 unmarked tree stands and one ground blind from hunting areas. Only ONE was claimed by a hunter who did not clearly mark their stand. The Hunter paid the \$50.00 fine and took possession of his stand without protest.

The other stands and blind are assumed to be unauthorized hunters and trespassers on the property because they have not been claimed. Hunters are aware that stands/blinds are in the possession of Treasure Lake security after removal and can be claimed at the gate after the fine has been paid.

The Chair asked for a verbal vote on incident One and Incident Two to determine disciplinary action.

On incident One:

All members present voted for permanent removal of the individual involved citing intent and false statements to the Committee.

On Incident Two:

Mr. Whalen suggested permanent removal of the individual citing persistent actions and disregard for the prescribed rules involving interactions with residents.

All members present voted for permanent removal of the individual involved citing persistent action and lack of concern for the prescribed rules.

The Chair will consult with POA management before disciplinary action is finalized with the individuals.

Mr. Whalen brought the issue of a group of property owner hunters who have "drivers" drive them into Treasure Lake property to hunt in the program. The individuals who bring them to the property are not in the company of the property owner and not at a residence with them. These "drivers" are permitted unfettered access to Treasure Lake and not leaving the property. It has been reported to security and the Committee that these "drivers" have been seen in many areas.

The Chair reported that this issue is being discussed and will be rectified before the next season begins.

The Committee recognizes that this practice is not permitted by Treasure Lake policies.

The Chair made hard copies of the proposed revisions to WL-2, WL-3 and WL-8 available to the members. The Chair asked for the members to review the revisions, so they can be finalized for motion submission.

The Chair noted that WL-8 (Violation policy) does not take into account the participant's lack of knowledge and/or purposeful intent. The WL-8 policy is flawed in this regard.

Coyotes have become a problem all over Treasure Lake. In residential areas as well as hunting areas. The Chair will be preparing a motion for submission the BOB for the February meeting.

Two members of the Committee and one hunter had encounters with trespassers that entered Treasure Lake through the outer gate on Yale Rd. and Kilmer Rd. Both encounters were with individuals that admitted to hunting Treasure Lake. These individuals entered because the gate at Yale Rd. And Kilmer Rd. was not secured. The locks were cut off. Mr. Pendolino approached these 2 individuals while they were driving out of the road below the stump dump. Mr. Pendolino called the security office while conversing with the 2 individuals. Security was unable to send an officer to the location. Mr. Pendolino asked that Sandy township police be called. The plate number on the truck was unregistered per Sandy Twp after the first encounter with a hunter earlier in the month. At this point the 2 left the area. Another committee member joined Mr. Pendolino and attempted to catch up with the trespassers.

Upon leaving the stump dump Mr. Pendolino noticed a Security truck 300 yards from the entrance doing speed control.

The following day John Reilly and I checked the three outer gates leading to Treasure Lake. Yale Road, The gate in the campground and the gate at Devil's Cay. All three were open. Mr Reilly and Mr. Pendolino secured the gates with pad locks and advised security. Also, they observed that the dirt barrier next to the gate can be driven over easily and needs to be raised and fortified.

Mr. Whalen inquired as to why these gates aren't checked daily by security while on normal patrols.

The chair said he will make an offer to management that the Committee be responsible for checking the gates prior to, and during the season. The trespass incidents can be avoided if the gates are secure.

Mr. Pendolino was later contacted by Sandy Twp. Police. The officer said they will be happy to cooperate with the Committee in regard to trespass incidents. They need to be contacted with the pertinent information. Mr. Pendolino told the officer that in both cases, the Treasure Lake hunters were property owners and would be willing to testify at any proceedings necessary. The officer said that is all that would be necessary to prosecute. Trespass citations can be issued with information given.

Dates for the post season meeting was also discussed. No action was taken.

The chair called to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. The motion was seconded.