

Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting
January 8th, 2018
7:30 PM

Location: DCR Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Members Present: Tom Berube (MA Council of Sportsmen), Jim Boyko (Swift River Valley Historical Society), Elisa Campbell (Sierra Club), Craig Cortis (Worcester County League of Sportsmen), Jerry Eves (Trout Unlimited), Larry Gates (Quabbin Fisherman's Association), J.R. Greene (Friends of Quabbin, Inc.), Ralph Lapinskas (General Public), Bill Pula (MA Wildlife Federation)

DCR Staff Present: Dan Clark, Justin Gonsor, Leo Roy

Public Attending: Rosemary Charron, Mike Laprade, Brad Miner, Clayton Sydla

Meeting Start Time: 7:32 PM

DCR Commissioner Leo Roy announced that Dan Clark will be the new Quabbin/Ware regional director. He also alerted that committee that Jonathan Yeo will be stepping down as director of the Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP). John Scannell will be taking over as acting director in his absence.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting on October 16th, 2017

J.R. Greene made a motion to accept the minutes from the QWAC meeting held on October 16th, 2017 with edits. Bill Pula seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Elisa Campbell abstained from voting as she did not attend the October meeting.

2017 Quabbin deer hunt discussion

Dan Clark presented the results of the 2017 Quabbin deer hunt to the committee. Two preliminary summaries were handed out to the members; they are attached at the end of these minutes. A detailed final report will be presented to the committee later this year. No safety issues were encountered over the course of the hunt. Hunter attendance was slightly lower than usual, especially on the

second day of each hunt. There may be different ways of approaching the Quabbin hunt in the future to increase hunter participation while still meeting regeneration goals.

Larry Gates asked about if/how Quabbin hunters are surveyed on their experience hunting the watershed. Dan Clark answered that surveys have been mailed to hunters in the past, the last one being between 6-9 years ago.

The aging hunter demographic was discussed. Larry suggested conducting another survey with in-depth questions regarding why people hunt Quabbin, what would make people more likely to hunt the second day, etc.

Hunter success rate was discussed. In 2016 we moved to an antlerless allocation system for doe tags, similar to how doe tags are issued throughout the rest of the state. Prior to 2016, all Quabbin hunters had the option to purchase an antlerless tag. This should result in less females being harvested.

J.R. Greene asked about the possibility of resting more zones in a given year. Currently Quabbin is broken down into 5 hunting zones, with 1 zone being rested each year and the other 4 being hunted. Dan Clark agreed that this year might be a good time for discussing significant changes to the hunt.

Elisa Campbell commented on the other factors apart from hunting that can affect forest regeneration; invasive species, disease, weather, etc.

2017 Quabbin fishing season discussion

Discussion of the 2017 Quabbin fishing season will be tabled for the next meeting. The committee will be sent the 2017 annual report in advance of that meeting.

Member Issues

Tom Berube asked about an upcoming MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife public meeting scheduled for February 6th. The main topic of that meeting will be in regards to dog regulations, specifically to amend and establish rules relating to the leashing of dogs and the restraint of domesticated animals on MassWildlife wildlife management areas. Bill Pula clarified that the proposal will still allow for hunting dogs to be off-leash when hunting or hunt-training. These regulations will not apply to any DCR owned wildlife management areas.

Larry Gates commented on the motor size exception in the draft version of the 2017 Quabbin Public Access Plan which states, “cleaner burning 25hp, four stroke motors are allowed for boats rated 40hp or above to encourage replacement of two stroke motors and support four stroke motors.” He would also like to see this wording be put in the 2018 Quabbin Fishing Guide.

Jerry Eves brought in two fishing line recycling tubes that were built and donated by the Southwick Eagle Scouts. He suggested they be placed along the Swift River north of Rt. 9 near the Y-pool. The tubes will be given to Paula Packard to oversee installation.

Craig Cortis asked about the possibility of Quabbin hosting a moose hunt in the future without first changing laws statewide regarding hunting moose; there is currently no moose hunting season in Massachusetts. Dan Clark answered that DCR doesn't have the ability to hunt moose without the legislature first changing their status; moose are not currently considered a game animal in Massachusetts.

Bill Pula and J.R. Greene mentioned a recent article in the Friends of Quabbin (FOQ) newsletter that noted a number of gravestones in Quabbin Park Cemetery that have fallen over, are cracked, or in need of being cleaned. Last year the FOQ had a gravestone expert attend one of their board meetings to explain and demonstrate what can be done to repair these stones. Cemetery work over the past few years was discussed; brass plaques have recently been restored and hazard trees have been felled sporadically. J.R. would like clarification from DCR on who is allowed to clean/repair stones; if they need to be descendants, family members, or if anyone can do it. Commissioner Roy stated that DCR would welcome a proposal from the FOQ detailing how they would like to collaborate/partner to look after the stones.

Larry Gates asked about when the seasonal parking passes for the fishing areas go on sale for the year. The visitor center will start selling the passes on Sunday, March 25th.

Tom Berube commented on the paraplegic hunt that occurred this past fall; seven people initially signed up but only one person showed up on the actual day of the hunt.

Meeting End Time: 8:25 PM

Upcoming QWAC Meetings:

- Monday, April 2nd, 2018 at 7:30 PM – DCR Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007



Division of Water Supply Protection
Natural Resources Section

2017 QUABBIN DEER HUNT SUMMARY

After 50 years without hunting, in 1991 Quabbin Reservation was opened to limited, controlled public deer hunting. This action was in response to growing concern about the impacts of deer browsing on forest regeneration and the potential long-term consequences of those impacts on water quality. The hunt is held during the 2-week shotgun season.

This was the 27th successful season of the Quabbin Deer Management Program. The results below for **Prescott, New Salem, Pelham and Hardwick** are *preliminary numbers*. This data will be finalized and published in the report: *Quabbin Reservation White-Tailed Deer Impact Management Program: Results from 2017*. Overall, there were **50** deer harvested during the 2017 season. The harvest sex ratio was **30** bucks to **20** does. The largest deer harvested at Quabbin this year was a **178 lb, 6-pointer** from Pelham.

First Week: November 31st and 1st

New Salem: 7 total deer harvested

November 31, 2017

- Number Harvested: 3
- Sex Ratio: 1 male/ 2 female
- Largest Buck: 82 lbs (0.5yrs, button buck)
- Largest Doe: 147 lbs (2.5yrs)

December 1, 2017

- Number Harvested: 4
- Sex Ratio: 4 male/ 0 female
- Largest Buck: 146 lbs (2.5yrs, 8 pts)
- Largest Doe: No does harvested

Prescott: 13 total deer harvested

November 31, 2017

- Number Harvested: 9
- Sex Ratio: 6 male/ 3 female
- Largest Buck: 158.5 lbs (3.5 yrs, 8pt)
- Largest Doe: 125 lbs (3.5 yrs)

December 1, 2017

- Number Harvested: 4
- Sex Ratio: 3 male/ 1 female
- Largest Buck: 118 lbs (1.5 yrs, 6pt)
- Largest Doe: 96 lbs (1.5 yrs)

Second Week: December 7th and 8th

Pelham: 15 total deer harvested

December 7, 2017

- Number Harvested: 13
- Sex Ratio: 8 male/ 5 female
- Largest Buck: 178 lbs (3.5 yrs, 6 pt)
- Largest Doe: 113 lbs (2.5 yrs)

December 8, 2017

- Number Harvested: 2
- Sex Ratio: 2 male/ 0 female
- Largest Buck: 136 lbs (3.5 yrs, 8 pt)
- Largest Doe: No does harvested

Hardwick: 15 total deer harvested

December 7, 2017

- Number Harvested: 11
- Sex Ratio: 5 male/ 6 female
- Largest Buck: 157 lbs (3.5 yrs, 10pt)
- Largest Doe: 110 lbs (2.5 yrs)

December 8, 2017

- Number Harvested: 4
- Sex Ratio: 1 male/ 3 female
- Largest Buck: 112 lbs (1.5 yrs, 5pts)
- Largest Doe: 125 lbs (3.5 yrs)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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2017 - Quabbin Hunt Information – Executive Summary

	Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 New Salem	Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 Prescott	Dec. 7 & 8 Hardwick	Dec. 7 & 8 Pelham	Totals
Hunters Selected	191	384	201	252	1,028 (1,028 applied)
Eligible Hunters (Returning or Attended Orientation)	181	359	197	230	967 / 1,028 (94%)
Scouting – Participation Day 1; Participation Day 2; Total	22%; 26%; 41%	27%; 22%; 45%	20%; 27%; 42%	27%; 21%; 44%	23%; 22%; 44%
Hunt Attendance – Day 1 / Hunters Eligible to Hunt	141 / 181 (73%)	252 / 359 (70%)	160 / 197 (81%)	176 / 230 (77%)	729 / 967 (75%)
Hunt Attendance – Day 2 / Hunters Eligible to Hunt	77 / 181 (43%)	153 / 359 (43%)	91 / 197 (46%)	117 / 230 (51%)	438 / 967 (45%)
Hunt Attendance – Day 1 and/or Day 2 (Participation Rate)	144 / 181 (80%)	260 / 359 (72%)	163 / 197 (83%)	180 / 230 (78%)	747 / 967 (77%)
Deer Taken - Day 1 (# Males; # Females)	3 (1 Buck; 2 Does)	9 (6 Bucks; 3 Does)	11 (5 Bucks; 6 Does)	13 (8 Bucks; 5 Does)	36 (20 Bucks; 16 Does)
Deer Taken – Day 2 (# Males; # Females)	4 (4 Bucks)	4 (3 Bucks; 1 Doe)	4 (1 Buck; 3 Does)	2 (2 Bucks)	14 (10 Bucks; 4 Does)
Total Deer Taken – 2 Days (# Males; # Females)	7 (5 Bucks; 2 Does)	13 (9 Bucks; 4 Does)	15 (6 Bucks; 9 Does)	15 (10 Bucks; 5 Does)	50 (30 Bucks; 20 Does)
Success Rate – Deer Taken / People Hunted	7 / 144 (5%)	13 / 260 (5%)	15 / 163 (9%)	15 / 180 (8%)	50 / 747 (7%)
Size of Hunt Area (mi. ²)	6,871.4 acres (10.7 mi. ²)	12,019.9 acres (18.8 mi. ²)	5,636.7 acres (8.8 mi. ²)	8,487.2 Acres (13.26 mi. ²)	33,015.2 acres (51.6 mi. ²)
Deer Taken / Square Mile	7 / 10.7 (0.65)	13 / 18.8 (0.69)	15 / 8.8 (1.70)	15 / 13.26 (1.13)	50 / 51.6 (0.97)
Largest Deer Taken	F – 147 lbs (2.5 yrs) M – 146 lbs (2.5 yrs, 8pt)	F – 125 lbs (3.5 yrs) M – 158.5 lbs (3.5 yrs, 8 pt)	F – 125 lbs (3.5 yrs) M – 157 lbs (3.5 yrs; 10 pt)	F – 113 lbs (2.5 yrs) M – 178 lbs (3.5 yrs, 6 pt)	F – 125 lbs (3.5 yrs) M – 178 lbs (3.5 yrs, 6 pt)
Notes:					