

Re: Keesing contact info

Fri, Aug 26, 2016 6:26 pm

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Dave,

Thank you so much for all this information and the research you are doing in this approach while sharing with the Deer Committee and the Village of Fayetteville! Thanks also for sharing all this with us and we can follow up!

I do have a question to a remark you made referring to a high tick count and high Lyme that seems apparent in Fayetteville. Would you explain what you mean and the source/data of this statement? I ask this because I wanted to add that I have seen the report by U.S. Wildlife Services that reviewed the Fayetteville culling program. USDA is the umbrella organization and these agencies are public and with taxpayer funding. So all this information should be available to the public for the sake of transparency and planning.

The U.S. Wildlife Services report made no mention of the tick count per deer that was killed in Fayetteville. From my contacts with White Buffalo as well as the Clifton Park, Ohio doe sterilization program, that tick count per deer should be included as required data. This seems especially important given that the driving rationale for the culling program in Fayetteville was based on the argument that the ticks on deer and deer density and the Lyme disease formed the critical connection as was so aggressively promoted in all of the public meetings and information. The report I mentioned does discuss deforestation and automobile accidents that relate to deer density. There is mention of ticks and Lyme disease but with very little detail. However, that seems so minimal given how the driving force in the justification for the deer culling revolved around the claim of linking deer density and ticks and Lyme disease.

I hope given the direction of the Cary Institute and all its partners, that the Village of Fayetteville will support a HALT at this time to the continued culling of deer! This can give the Deer Committee and the Village of Fayetteville time for the needed research...especially given that this research in the Cary Institute does not recommend the culling of deer as a solution. I understand there are issues of automobile accidents and deforestation given deer density. However, these were not the driving rationale behind the aggressive plan for the deer culling. To address these issues of automobile accidents and deforestation, as was shared in information, there is so much being done in non lethal strategies. I also recently sent that link that shows that Staten Island, NY has just made the decision for deer sterilization which is one humane, non lethal strategy.

The deer culling that took place in Fayetteville, NY was a radical departure from the deer practice in CNY. The public notice and execution of the program also took place so quickly. Fortunately, the Village of Fayetteville backed away from the original proposal of allowing amateurs to use bow hunting in the culling program. Maybe that plan would have saved money but it would have entailed even more pain and suffering to the deer.

No one is denying the issue of deer density and the need for planning how best to manage the deer population. However, there are so many humane, non lethal approaches that are being implemented

around the country. We shared so many examples about the deer sterilization, as one example, and how and who can help implement this kind of program. Thankfully, now the Cary Institute with all of its partners and extensive funding in the millions of dollars represents a helpful path to address ticks and Lyme disease...advocating a toxic approach for the ticks but humane and non toxic to humans and animals.

Also, I spoke to Laura Tully, the manager of Green Lakes State Park. As this issue has been addressed over the years, there is NO plan for the culling of deer at Green Lakes State Park. Laura Tully referred me to the Green Lakes State Park Master Plan for all the background information regarding this decision. Again, this is a humane, non lethal approach whenever possible.

Thank you again for all you have shared! I hope we can stay in touch! I also just want to add that we all understand how funding is an issue. As we have said for over the past two years, we are dealing with a public health issue that affects us locally as well as throughout all of NYS. Just as with rabies prevention, we need the help of NYS taxpayer funds. How can localities be expected to just rely on their limited funds to tackle these important public health issues at hand!

Our advocates have a meeting coming up on August 30, 2016 with NYS Assemblymember Pam Hunter. Gratefully, Assemblymember Hunter was able to secure a \$200,000 grant from New York State to help the City of Syracuse and the Town of Dewitt tackle the issues we have been talking about. We will be advocating the humane, non lethal approach whenever possible...saving a lethal strategy as a last resort. Will stay in touch with you to share how things go. I don't know if you thought of approaching Assemblymember Al Stirpe, to see if there might be financial assistance available for the Village of Fayetteville?

Not to belabor this point, but in all the current research, the overwhelming majority of the public wants to solve our problems through coexistence with our wildlife companions...a win/win to problem solving and protecting these sentient beings from unnecessary pain and suffering. As Oprah Winfrey just discussed in her recent program on OWN with Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States..."Isn't this one of the biggest spiritual issues of our time?"

Sincerely,

Jan