

## HISTORY

In the early 1900s there were very few whitetail deer within the State of Ohio. Beginning in 1930 deer migrated back into our area and began to repopulate. In 1970, the herd was estimated at 17,000 and the Ohio Division of Wildlife was actively managing the herd numbers through hunting regulations. In the past thirty years the deer population has exploded and is now estimated at 750,000 animals statewide. Approximately 250,000 animals are harvested each year during the state hunting season and another 25,000 to 30,000 are involved in reported deer vehicle accidents. Each area of the State has its own unique challenges in dealing with these numbers and Amberley Village is no different.

Amberley Village is located in central Hamilton County, and is comprised of 3.5 square miles or approximately 2240 acres. Amberley is has 403 acres of green space which include French Park, a City of Cincinnati public park of 257 acres and Amberley Green, which is an undeveloped Village-owned property of 133 acres.

Amberley Village first implemented a Deer Management Program in 2007. This program was deemed necessary due to an increasing white-tailed deer herd, resulting in an increase in deer vehicle accidents (DVA). In addition, the Village was receiving numerous complaints relating to property damage from deer activity. An aerial survey by helicopter conducted in 2008 indicated 115 deer within the Village borders. At that time, Amberley Village Council implemented the initial Deer Management Program consisting of culling by sharpshooters in designated areas of Amberley Green and French Park. During the winter of 2007, 46 deer were removed by sharpshooters. In 2008, eight deer were removed. In 2009, 67 deer were removed, in 2010, 34 deer were removed and in 2011 30 deer were removed. In 2012, 24 deer were culled. [Exh. A] **The purpose of this plan is to put forth a program that will maintain the deer population at a level which is acceptable from a safety and nuisance perspective as well as to ensure a healthy deer herd and continued sustainability of other wildlife and plants in Amberley Village.**

In the spring and summer of 2012, the Health, Education, & Welfare Committee of Amberley Village Council conducted four informational meetings to assess and address the impact of the White Tail deer presence in Amberley Village. Information was collected from the Cincinnati Park Board, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Wildlife, The City of Wyoming, and the Amberley Village Police. Interested residents attended all meetings and also provided input. [Exhs. B,C,D,E]. The Cincinnati Park Board instructed committee members on the impact of deer on the ecosystem. Amberley takes pride in its green spaces and parks and excess deer feeding will negatively impact the balance of the ecosystem by eliminating food sources for animals that forage in the undergrowth of the forest. [Exh. B]. The ODNR stressed the responsibility of government to balance both the cultural and environmental impact of having an ever growing deer herd. Amberley Village is an upscale, wooded suburb where many residents' homes are situated on large lots. Homeowners take pride in their homes and landscapes and are discouraged by the impact of deer both eating the landscape plantings as well as causing other damage to the homes themselves. [B,C]. Both the Cincinnati Parks and the ODNR suggest a recommended number of deer per square mile as being between 10-15 deer. Accordingly, Amberley

Village, being 3.5 square miles, can support a deer population of approximately 37- 52 deer before meadowlands, plantings, undergrowth, and other wildlife begin to show signs of stress.

Although the growing trend in municipalities is to allow restricted bow-hunting within jurisdictional borders, it was the opinion of Amberley's Police Chief that this method would not be appropriate for Amberley due to issues of safety and personnel. [Exh. E]

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

The management of a deer herd is a highly sensitive issue. The Village must emphasize the positive benefits of a stable, managed herd, while openly communicating the action plan and goals. Local newspapers and the Village website will be effective tools in this effort.

#### **MONITORING ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Any management plan requires monitoring. Monitoring provides essential information about the baseline (where we are presently and whether we have made positive progress towards our goals). The results of this process will help us identify where problems still exist and allow us to focus our efforts in those areas. Monitoring will be accomplished by:

1. Deer Vehicle Accidents – 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.
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. Periodic Deer Count – In the past, Amberley Village has engaged in a deer count by utilizing a helicopter fly-over and a visual deer count. Information gathered by representatives of both the Cincinnati Parks as well as the Ohio Department of Wildlife has suggested that this method is the least accurate of deer-count methodology and provides an inaccurate picture of the number of deer in the Village at any given time. A more accurate method utilizes a flyover by airplane equipped with thermal imaging technology to provide a snapshot of the number of deer within the Village. This method results in a count with over 90% accuracy. [Eh. B] The Amberley Village Police Dept. and the Village Manager, at the request of Council, will establish a relationship with the Cincinnati Park Board in order to participate in their annual deer count of the Cincinnati Parks, in order to include French Park in the thermal image count. The deer count will occur at least every third year, beginning in 2013.
4. 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 will also be included.
5. Public Opinion Surveys – It will be beneficial to annually conduct public surveys regarding landscape, garden, and crop damage in addition to other citizen concerns. Village Administration 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.

6. All collected data will be periodically reviewed by the Health, Education, & Welfare committee, but not less than once per calendar year, commencing in September 2013. Any changes or amendments to the Amberley Deer Ordinance can be made and brought before Council's regularly scheduled October meeting if necessary.

**MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES**

Deer management is often undertaken to satisfy diverse needs and interests while solving conflicts. No single technique or strategy is universally acceptable or appropriate. The complexity of suburban deer issues and limitations of available techniques requires an integrated program. Many options are available for control and reduction, with specific advantages and disadvantages. Some are acceptable for more rural areas while some are unsuitable, from a safety standpoint, for a more urban setting. Amberley Village has explored and discussed the pros and cons of all of these methods:

**NON-LETHAL ALTERNATIVES**

1. Habitat Modification – Deer adapt well to nearly all human-modified environments, except for downtown urban locations. Amberley's deer do not discriminate between suburban landscapes and natural park growth.

2. Ban on Deer Feeding – Supplemental feed can enhance reproductive rates, transmission of disease and encourage deer to concentrate in specific areas and make deer more tolerant of people. Feeding may also contribute to an artificially high deer population, especially during harsh winters. Regulations may reduce the number of people who feed deer, but these types of regulations are difficult to enforce unless a concerted effort is made. Amberley has an ordinance prohibiting feeding of deer on public lands but there are no plans to prohibit feeding of wild animals on private property.

3. Unpalatable Landscape Plantings – Deer are selective feeders; they forage on plants or plant parts with considerable discrimination. Costly browsing damage may be reduced or eliminated by planting less-preferred species or by establishing susceptible plants only in areas protected from deer. Under most circumstances, landscaping based on knowledge of deer feeding preferences can provide an alternative to the use of expensive chemical repellents and physical barriers. Whether or not a particular plant species will be eaten by deer depends on the deer's previous experience, nutritional needs, plant palatability, seasonal factors, weather conditions, and the availability of alternative foods.

*The homeowner is cautioned that the deer-browsing resistance of any plant species may change due to fluctuation in deer populations, alternative food availability, and environmental factors. No plant species will be avoided by deer under all conditions.*

<b>Plants Rarely Damaged</b>		
Barberry	Common Barberry	Paper Birch
Common Boxwood	Russian Olive	American Holly
Drooping Leucothoe	Colorado Blue Spruce	

<b>Plants Seldom Damaged</b>		
European White Birch	American Bittersweet	Red Osier Dogwood
Flowering Dogwood	Kousa Dogwood	English Hawthorn
Redvein Enkianthus	European Beech	Forsythia
Honey Locust	Chinese Holly	Inkberry
Chinese Junipers – Green	Chinese Junipers – Blue	Mountain Laurel
Beautybush	Norway Spruce	White Spruce
Austrian Pine	Pitch Pine	Mugo Pine
Red Pine	Scots Pine	Japanese Flowering Cherry
Corkscrew Willow	Common Sassafras	Common Lilac
Japanese Wisteria		
<b>Plants Moderately Damaged</b>		
White Fir	Paperback Maple	Red Maple
Silver Maple	Sugar Maple	Common Horse Chestnut
Trumpet Creeper	Downy/Allegheny Serviceberry	Japanese Flowering Quince
Panicled Dogwood	Smokebush	Cotoneaster
Cranberry Cotoneaster	Old-fashioned Weigela	Rockspray Cotoneaster
Japanese Cedar	Border Forsythia	Common Witchhazel
Rose of Sharon	Smooth Hydrangea	Climbing Hydrangea
Panicle Hydrangea	Japanese Holly	China Girl/Boy Holly
Easter Red Cedar	European Larch	Goldflame Honeysuckle
Privet	Saucer Magnolia	Dawn Redwood
Virginia Creeper	Sweet Mock Orange	Eastern White Pine
Bush Cinquefoil	Sweet Cherry	Douglas Fir
Firthorn	Bradford Callery Pear	Common Pear
White Oak	Chestnut Oak	Northern Red Oak
Deciduous Azaleas	Carolina Rhododendron	Rosebay Rhododendron
Staghorn Sumac	Multiflora Rose	Rugosa Rose
Willows	Anthony Waterer Spiraea	Bridalwreath Spiraea
Persian Lilac	Japanese Tree Lilac	Late Lilac
Basswood	Greenspire Littleleaf Linden	Eastern Hemlock
Carolina Hemlock	Judd Viburnum	Leatherleaf Viburnum
Doublefile Viburnum	Korean Spice Viburnum	
<b>Plants Frequently Damaged</b>		
Balsam Fir	Fraser Fir	Norway Maple
Eastern Redbud	Atlantic White Cedar	Clematis
Cornelian Dogwood	Winged Euonymus	Wintercreeper
English Ivy	Apples	Cherries
Plums	Rhododendrons	Evergreen Azaleas
Catawba Rhododendron	Pinxterbloom Azalea	Hybrid Tea Rose
European Mountain Ash	Yews	English Yew
Western Yew	Japanese Yew	English/Japanese Hybrid Yew
American Arborvitae		

**Lethal Alternatives**

The Ohio Division of Wildlife will process deer damage control permits to applicants experiencing a high rate of deer vehicle accidents resulting in significant safety issues. Permits may also be granted in reducing numbers based on property damage to landscapes, ornamental shrubbery and gardens. In past years, these permits have been used successfully in Amberley Village's culling effort to minimize problems in those areas.

Sharp Shooting – The use of trained personnel to remove deer through sharp shooting has been successful. Using a variety of techniques maximizes safety, humaneness, discretion and efficiency. It can be a costly solution. These activities would take place on Amberley Green and French Park. Notification will be posted at the parks and the Amberley Village Police Department will be utilized to secure the site when being used. This method had been employed successfully from 2007-2012. Exhibit A provides a summary of those efforts. All animals which have been removed by this method have been processed and the meat donated to local food banks according to Ohio law. This practice will be continued. The Amberley Village police will cull up to 50 deer per calendar year without additional permission by Village Council. If the Chief determines that there is a dramatic increase in the number of deer in the Village, by tri-annual deer count, or by increased DVAs, then the Chief may request that the HEW committee review the Ordinance and temporarily increase the number by vote of Council.

Amberley Village  
Historical Deer Data 2000-2012

Year	Deer Count	Auto Accidents	Complaint Reports	Deer Complaints	Deer Culled
2000		10	3	5	
2001		8	3	13	
2002		12	6	8	
2003		13	8	22	
2004		14	5	25	
2005		17	9	12	
2006		22	11	34	
2007		13	5	43	46
2008	115	15	10	57	8
2009	202	13	4	33	67
2010	106	16	11	44	34
2011		14	10	38	30
2012*		6	3	34	24

2012 is as of 8/1/2012

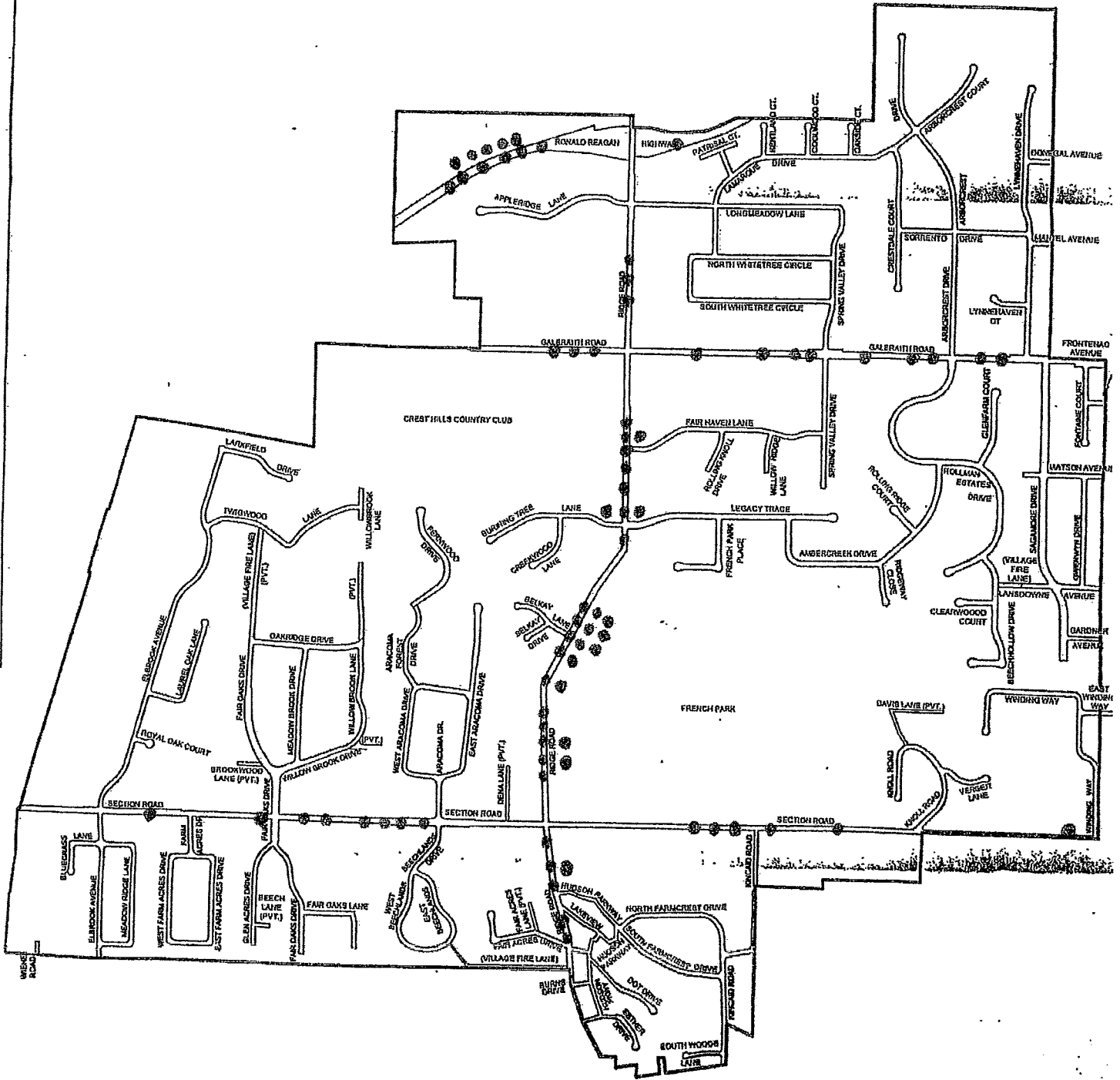
# Village of Amberley

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO



DEER MOTOR VEHICLE AUTO ACCIDENTS 2007 THRU 8/1/2012

77 REPORTS FILED



## Exhibit B

### Health, Education & Welfare Committee

#### Notes from 5-7-2012

#### Residents in Attendance:

Sandra Kirsh 3265 N. Whitetree

James G. Coleman 2920 East Galbraith Rd.

Mary (Marj) Walker 3575 Sorrento

Josephine Rosenblum 3340 LeMarque Dr.

Louis H. Katz 6785 E. Beechlands Dr.

Stuart Holman 3168 Esther Dr.

Bruce Lazarus 3140 No. Whitetree

Gale Wallmark 6760 E. Beechlands

Nancy Klein 3199 S. Farmcrest

Brenda Shoenfeld

#### Staff:

Scott Lahrmer, Village Manager

Officer Brian Blum

#### Council Members in Attendance:

Natalie Wolf

Tom Muething

J.K. Byar

Ed Hattenbach (by telephone)

#### Cincinnati Park Board Representatives:

Jim Godby

Dave Gamestetter

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 by committee chair Natalie Wolf. Vice-Mayor Wolf stated the reason for the meeting was to start the process of examining the Village deer management policy and come up with a codified Ordinance related to managing the deer in Amberley Village. Ms. Wolf dispelled rumor that the current council was interested in eliminating all of the deer in Amberley Village



and stated that deer and wildlife are an amenity of living in the Village. The purpose of the culling was to maintain a healthy deer herd and reduce the damage caused by deer vehicle incidents and property damage caused by deer. Amberley also has a vested interest in the sustainability of French Park.

Jim Godby and Dave Gamestetter were introduced as being representatives of the CPB who would then detail for the committee the bow hunting procedure in current use by Cincinnati.

Mr. Godby stated that the parks love the deer, but the deer population had increased over time to the extent that it was causing a noticeable browse line in the parks and disrupting the natural ecosystem. He stated that it was not the goal of the CPB to eradicate the deer but that the deer are overpopulated. Mr. Godby explained that the purpose of the Cincinnati Park Board in harvesting the deer was strictly conservation of natural habitat and protecting the park itself rather than any attempt at reducing deer/vehicle incidents. It was stated that the only enemies of deer in our area are coyotes and motor vehicles. California Woods was losing lots of wildflowers and sapling tree species. Mount Airy Forrest was greatly decimated by deer.

Mr. Godby stated that the CPB has used bow hunters for three years and it has been a very safe and successful program.

Mr. Godby stated that in order to be allowed to bow hunt in the parks, a hunter must

1. Have a hunter safety card
2. Demonstrate proficiency with the bow and arrow, hitting 4 out of 5 shots in a 10" target from 20 yards away.
3. Fulfill the educational/classroom requirement (often done in advance as part of licensing process)

The CPB uses thermal imaging from airplanes to count the deer. It is infinitely more accurate than a visual helicopter count, but is more expensive. Thermal imaging provides a "snapshot in time" of deer that are in the area. Mr. Godby stated that thermal imaging is 90% accurate and that the heat signature of deer is different than that of humans. In 2010, there were 54 deer in French Park. Mr. Godby said that according to the target level of 15-20 deer per square mile, which is the recommended number of deer according to the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), French Park could, in his opinion, support six deer.

Godby stated that downsides to bow hunting to cull the deer were

1. Complaints about closing the park to allow hunters in
2. Problems with deer wounded, but never found
3. Not as humane as sharp shooting, but sharp shooting is more expensive

Former councilmember Louis Katz explained the prior practice of deer management in Amberley Village. He stated that Amberley used 35 deer per square mile as the ideal number of deer for the village to support in 3.5 square miles. He explained that the number differed from that of the ODNR because it was determined by Council that this was a reasonable amount given Amberley's rural setting and large lots and because deer were seen as an advantage to the Village. Mr. Katz stated that Amberley Council had explored the option of bow hunting in the past and that former Police Chief Monahan was opposed to bow hunting.

Resident Josephine Rosenblum asked about the migration range of deer. Jim G. explained that deer have a home range of 1-1/2 miles. Because of Amberley's size (3.5 square miles), hunting in French Park alone will have no effect on deer outside the home range. Reading, Cross County, Northern Amberley are therefore not effected by culling in FP and AG.

A question was asked about the sustainability of French Park. Dave: Deer will eat anything within their reach. They will not eat the honeysuckle unless they are starving. Once deer eat the seedlings and native plants, and everything they can reach, all that grows is the honeysuckle. This is devastating to the other wildlife that relies on the underbrush. The CPB strives for a balance of wildlife in the parks to ensure sustainability. A browse line of honeysuckle can be seen as evidence of deer destruction in the parks.

Why are there so many more deer now than there used to be even a decade ago?

DG: We have more green space and less hunting which led to a population explosion of deer. Reproduction of deer is related to the food supply. There is a rebound effect, so if more deer are culled, there is more food for the deer which means does could give birth to multiple fawns (twins). Because of this, deer management should not be done sporadically.

Mr. Lazarus stated that the deer are very domesticated now and don't even run from his dogs.

Jim G: Bow hunting occurs late September and can continue through the first week of February. Sharpshooting can be done anytime.

AV Culling: Occurs in January and February. We work within budget and staffing levels and work with the CPB to get permission to harvest in the park. Culling occurs between dusk and 11:00 PM. (Blum)

Byar: Does unofficial "culling" occur in AV?

Officer Blum: Amberley Village police have arrested people with rifles in French Park, bows in both French Park and Amberley Green, found an arrow in a tree on Winding Way and a deer with an arrow in its side on Winding Way. When you have a lot of deer, people are going to try to come and try to shoot the deer. It is a fact of life and we have made several arrests.

Wolf: If residents hear shots at 2AM then that is not culling? Blum: No, police should be called.

Amberley has been engaged in deer culling since 2007 and uses sharp shooters. Deer meat is donated to the Free Store.

A resident asked if a browse line had been seen in French Park this year. Jim G: it is too early to see the browse line. Must wait till late summer.

A resident asked 1) could she get a tax credit for deer as she was opposed to her tax dollars being spent to cull deer. She also wanted to know if deer could be relocated.

Jim G and Dave explained that deer could not be relocated because 1) it is against the law and 2) because of the extremely high mortality rate of relocated deer (60% die within a year) and 3) because no one else wants them.

J.K. Byar asked how many distinct herds lived in Amberley Village. Mr. Godby could not say because deer ranges overlap.

Q: What will happen if we don't cull?

A: Cars are main predators to deer. Coyote will take some fawns. The deer population will increase exponentially and hit a biological carrying capacity and deer will have fewer fawns when that happens. By that time, forests will be ravaged by browsing and rubbing. Deer will starve because they will have reduced the sustainable fauna to honeysuckle only, which deer don't like to eat. The forests will be unsustainable to other animals as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Natalie Wolf

## Exhibit C

### Health, Education & Welfare Committee

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### Minutes

Those in attendance:

Natalie Wolf, Chair

Ed Hattenback, committee member

Tom Muething, committee member

J.K. Byar, Mayor

Bill Doering, council member

Jane Murphy, resident

Louis H. Katz, resident

Ronna Willis, resident

Lt. Brian Blum

Chief Richard Wallace

Brett Beatty, Ass't Wildlife Mgt. Supervisor, ODNR

Mike Ohlrich, Clermont County Wildlife Officer, ODNR

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Wolf as committee chair. Minutes of the previous meeting related to deer management, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012, were approved by the committee.

Guests Brett Beatty and Mike Ohrich, both representatives of the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODNR) were introduced. Mr. Beatty explained that he oversees all wildlife management (fur and feathers) in seventeen Ohio counties. This includes hunting, nuisance, and wildlife conflicts. His jurisdiction does not extend to Hamilton County, which currently does not have its own extension agent, but one has been hired and is being trained. Mr. Ohrich is the wildlife officer for Clermont County.

A brief history of Ohio's deer population was given: When Ohio was first settled, there were no hunting regulations and the deer population in Ohio was completely decimated due to overhunting. As deer moved back into Ohio from other states, game reserves were established and deer were protected. In the 1950s, the first regulated deer hunting season was initiated. It was very limited. As the deer

population increased, the season broadened to include several different aspects – archery: Sept-Feb, Youth Firearm – November (2 days), Traditional firearm – after Thanksgiving, Primitive weapon – January. The deer harvest and bag limit is increasing along with the deer population. By the late 1980s, Ohio allowed hunters one deer. Now, Ohio has three zones with different bag limits based on deer population. Zone A: 2 deer, Zone B: 4 deer, and Zone C: 6 deer/ hunter. Hamilton County is in Zone C. Additionally, there are Urban Zones, where hunters can harvest an additional 6 antlerless deer (less than 3" antlers). In Ohio, 225,000-250,000 deer are hunted annually. 10,000-12,000 through culling programs, 30,000 annually killed by motor vehicles. ODNR Pub. 304 is the Annual Deer Survey

The only predators of deer in Ohio are hunters.

The exact deer population in Ohio is unknown, but is tracked by trends. (See above)

The ODNR relies on the concept of Carrying Capacity to determine the deer population impact.

1. Biological Carrying Capacity – How many deer a given area or place can tolerate without sustaining damage.
2. Cultural Carrying Capacity – What people are willing to tolerate. Varies by community.

ODNR position on other methods suggested by residents:

1. Contraception/sterilization – Not permitted by ODNR, not regulated and approved by FDA
2. Trap & Transfer – Nowhere to “transfer” to since no place has zero deer, risk of spread of disease (Chronic Wasting Disease), very high mortality rate, inhumane

The ideal number of deer per square mile varies between 15-25/square mile.

There is a vibrant deer population in all of Ohio’s 88 counties. The ODNR seeks balance in the number of deer in the state – not too many, not too few. If we do nothing about controlling the deer population, we will reach “the point of no return.”

There are many communities in Ohio that allow hunting on private property. Indian Hill allows this.

A good community deer count takes into consideration:

1. Flyover count (Fleer infrared best)
2. Complaints from residents
3. Deer Vehicle Accidents

Ohio communities with good deer management plans: Solon and Avon Lake, both in Northeast Ohio. Jeff Westerfield is the Wildlife agent.

Dayton Metro Parks Mgmt. uses sharpshooters to get the deer population down to acceptable levels then uses bow hunting to maintain. Considered good method.

No opinion on whether sharpshooting or bow hunting is a more humane method. Both result in death. Bow hunters are required to be licensed and prove training. Almost always hit the "kill zone" of heart/lungs. Sometimes, though, deer have taken longer to die.

Private property considerations:

Deer are often hunted on private property with the permission of the property owner. Occasionally the deer will wander onto an adjacent property before it dies. The hunter must get the permission from the owner of the property where the deer carcass is located before retrieving the carcass.

For more info on deer biology, etc. Mike Tonkavitch ("Tonk") is the Deer Biologist in ODNR District 4.

## Exhibit D

HEW Meeting

July 13, 2012

In attendance:

Natalie Wolf, chair

Tom Muething, committee member

Ed Hattenbach, committee member

J.K. Byar, Mayor

Bill Doering, council

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager

Chief Rich Wallace

Lt. Brian Blum

Gary Baldauf, City of Wyoming, Police Chief

Lynn Tetley, Manager, City of Wyoming

Josephine Rosenblum

Ronit Na'amati

E Goldman

Merrie Stillpass

Mark Levine

Jim Dempsey

Ronna Willis

Louis Katz

Tom Brown

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Natalie Wolf. The minutes of the previous meeting (June 27, 2012) were approved without corrections.

Chair Wolf opened the meeting by stating the procedure for the meeting. Prepared questions would be asked of guests Gary Baldauf and Lynn Tetley from the City of Wyoming. At the conclusion of the questions by Chairperson Wolf, all in attendance would be permitted to ask questions.

Lynn Tetley deferred to Chief Baldauf as she explained that the police are managing the move to establish a deer management policy in Wyoming. Wyoming Council was being asked to approve an Ordinance that would allow hunting within the City limits. History: Police have been monitoring deer in Wyoming since 2008. They initially noticed an increase in complaints by residents as well as an increase in deer vehicle accidents (DVA). In 2009 an infrared image analysis was done. 69 deer were counted within the Wyoming jurisdiction, 25 in outlying areas. This deer count cost \$5000. In 2010 the police started collecting specific information into a deer database. Data was requested from residents and the community was blanketed for resident feedback. (Wyoming reaches residents by an online newsletter, website, and two regularly mailed newsletters). The Wyoming police reached out to Indian Hill and Mariemont for information on their program already in place and discovered bow hunting was being done in other communities.

In 2011 two public feedback sessions were held in an "open house" format. It was decided that the program should be "cost neutral."

Opinions were sought in these areas:

Why not do nothing? Estimates of \$1000s in property damage already.

Yard fencing and repellents? might only work for small deer populations.

Trap and Transfer? ODNR won't allow; cost prohibitive.

Pros and Cons of contraceptives? Not allowed in Ohio; expensive

Wyoming is considering allowing regulated bow hunting on private property, specifically the Wyoming Golf Course. Hunting would only be allowed one day/week. The golf course is Wyoming's largest open space at 60-70 acres.

There is not enough contiguous public property in Wyoming to hunt on public property.

Wyoming is using 10-15 deer/square mile as the ideal for the city. Rural areas are suggested at 20-25 deer/square mile.

\*Wyoming's intent is a regulated bow-hunting program on designated property. Only on the golf course when the course is closed. They will limit deer culled to 20.

Staff time involved in tracking complaints related to deer incidents and gathering data is no different than tracking other complaints.

Wyoming annual accidents: 90; 7 related to deer. Over 5 years, 30 total DVAs reported in Wyoming.

Amberley recorded 100 total mvas; DVAs for last 5 years were: 10, 11, 6, 16, 13

Wyoming has received 250 nuisance complaints related to deer in the last 2 years.

Wyoming demographics: Under 3 square miles, 3500 households, can sustain about 45 deer using 10-15/sq mile.

Wyoming's intent is to establish a healthy deer population and not to eradicate all deer issues.

Wyoming would allow hunters in deer stands, officers would help track the deer.



Resident comments:

Worst season for deer. Repellents don't work. Deer are aggressive

Feels endangered. Stopped planting anything

Mature doe has 2-3 babies therefore 20 deer won't be enough

Relationship between coyote and deer?

An oil-based repellent has been reported to work well.

## Exhibit E

Health, Education, Welfare Committee

Minutes of Aug. 15, 2012

Attendees:

Natalie Wolf, Chair

Ed Hattenbach, committee member

Tom Muething, committee member

J.K. Byar, Mayor

Bill Doering, Council

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager

Lt. Brian Blum

Chief Rich Wallace

Bruce Lazarus

Josephine Rosenblum

Louis Katz

Tom Brown

Minutes of the previous HEW meeting were approved.

Previous meetings of the HEW committee related to deer management in Amberley revealed that many communities in Ohio are implementing bow hunting regulations that would allow citizens to register and hunt for deer as one method of management as long as they followed designated guidelines. The City of Cincinnati currently uses this method in four of its city parks, as does Indian Hill. The City of Wyoming and other municipalities in Ohio are exploring this option as well.

Amberley's Chief Richard Wallace and Lt. Brian Blum were invited to attend today's meeting to give their opinions on whether bow hunting would be a viable alternative to sharp shooting in Amberley Village.

Both the Chief and Lt. Blum expressed concern over whether a bow hunting program could ensure the safety of Amberley's citizens. Lt. Blum also felt that bow hunting would not be more cost-effective than sharp shooting because

- 1) Due to staff reductions, there are not enough police personnel to carry out the program
- 2) Background checks of applicants would be time-consuming and costly
- 3) Time consuming to test and evaluate the hunters.

Lt. Blum stated that the Village will save in deer processing costs because each hunter would have to pay to process his/her own deer.

Historical data of DVA in Amberley were reviewed. Charts are attached. It is important to note that not all deer vehicle accidents are reported.

Costs associated with deer culling by sharpshooters are:

Processing: \$60/deer. Deer culled by police are processed according to law. They are tagged, and the meat is donated to the FreeStore. Residents may not purchase the venison.

+ feed (bait)

+ ammunition

+ manpower

Amberley budgets \$5000/year for deer management.

PASSED:  
BY:

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A 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 250,000 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 has continued 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 establish a program to maintain the deer population at a level which is acceptable from a safety and nuisance perspective, as well as to ensure a healthy deer herd and sustainability of other wildlife in the Village;

**WHEREAS**, in the spring and summer of 2012, the Village Health, Education, & Welfare Committee conducted informational meetings to assess and address the impact of the White Tail deer presence in Amberley Village, as well as collected information and data from various regional governmental agencies, including the Cincinnati Park Board, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the City of Wyoming, and the Amberley Village Police Dept. on the issue of deer management;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** Council of Amberley Village, State of Ohio, \_\_\_\_\_ members elected thereto concurring:

**SECTION 1:**

(A) The Village will conduct a deer count by thermal imaging technology every third year beginning in 2013. 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.

(B) Village police are 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.

(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, commencing in September 2013. 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, but beginning no later than 2016.

**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 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Byar

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Resolution Vote:

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

I, Clerk of Council of Amberley Village, Ohio, certify that on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, the forgoing Ordinance was published pursuant to Article IX of the Home Rule Charter by posting true copies of said Ordinance at all of the places of public notice as designed by Sec. 31.40(B), Code of Ordinances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

To: Natalie Wolf (Chair Health, Education & Welfare Committee)

From: Tom Muething (committee member)

Subject: Deer Management Policy

Over the past few months, we have had a lot of discussion concerning the proposed deer management policy and have received a lot of excellent information from experts in the field and from those who have dealt with the issue elsewhere. However, we always seem to get bogged down by the question of how many deer should we have in Amberley. Accordingly, I thought that it would be useful to put in writing my objections to a specific number in the policy. The following are my arguments:

- 1. What is the right number-** During our discussions, we heard from experts in the field of deer management and we consistently asked their opinion as to how many deer should we have in Amberley. All said that this was a question that they could not answer. The reason that it could not be answered is that it is subject to many variables including both scientific and cultural variables. Scientific variables include (not an inclusive list) the amount of green space, the nature of the vegetation in the green space, density of homes and the other wildlife in the area. Cultural variables include the roads in the area (amount of vehicle traffic) and most importantly the residents' expectations and desires. Even if you attempt to answer the question then there would be such a wide range of opinions as to the right number that it would be impossible to pick the right number. Even a range (reflecting the various opinions) would need to be so wide that it would be worthless. The experts in the field cannot answer the question so I do not understand how a council (of people with virtually no knowledge in the field) can answer the question.
- 2. What is the purpose of the number-** Whenever someone has suggested that we must have a number, I have always asked what would be the purpose of a specific number. The only answer that I have received is that they believe a target is useful. I have researched the definition of target and the universal definition is a desired goal to be achieved. This simply is not the desired outcome of our proposed deer management policy. Our goal as stated in the proposed policy is:

To put forth a program that will maintain the deer population at a level which is acceptable from a safety and nuisance perspective as well as to ensure a healthy deer herd and continued sustainability of other wildlife in Amberley Village.

A number of measures (as explained below) have been identified to measure the effectiveness of the policy—not just one.

3. **Accuracy of the deer count-** Amberley Village has historically done its deer count (when one was taken) by a manual count in a flyover by helicopter. Most experts would describe this method as so inaccurate that it is virtually worthless. Accordingly, the policy proposes to start using the more accurate thermal imaging technology. This method is more accurate but it is more expensive so the proposal is to make a count every three years beginning in 2013. This method is more accurate but it is still subject to variables like the weather, other wildlife in the area and deer movements from one area to another. The experts believe (given the level of accuracy) that the chief benefit to a count is to spot trends over time and not the specific count as to the number of deer in an area.
4. **Why a target here and not on other things in the policy-** We seem to have broad agreement on the goal of the policy (presented above) and the measures that we should track to understand whether we are achieving the objective. These measures include DVA's (deer vehicle accidents), resident complaints, dead deer collected in the Village, the deer count and the number of deer culled. However, the measure that we seem to focus on for a specific number is the number of deer. What is the corresponding number for DVA's?
5. **Why don't we have precise measure elsewhere-** The objective of the Amberley Village police department is to provide a safe environment for the residents and to enforce the law. We use many measures to help us understand whether the objective is being achieved. These include (not all inclusive) criminal activity, vehicle accidents, enforcement actions and resident satisfaction. These are all very important measures but we do not have specific targets but instead we are watching for trends. The same practice should hold for our deer management policy.
6. **What would a specific number be used for-** I fail to understand what a specific number would be used for in the evaluation of our policy. For example, if the number of deer (in the most recent count) was below the target but DVA's are increasing and resident complaints are increasing then what is the right answer as whether our policy is achieving its goal. If on the other hand, we are above the target yet trends in all other areas are in the right direction then what is the answer. If the specific number does not serve a purpose then why have a specific number. We have identified a number of measures to help us understand the effectiveness of our deer management program and they need to be considered in the aggregate and no one measure is more important than another.
7. **Why does Amberley need a specific target but others do not-** The discussions were excellent and far reaching over the past few months but we did not hear about



communities or parks that had specific targets. If the state of Ohio, Hamilton, County Parks, Cincinnati Parks or municipalities that we examined do not need a specific number then I do not understand why Amberley needs a specific number.

In conclusion, over the past several months we have made excellent progress in developing a deer management policy and we have learned a tremendous amount during these discussions. In my opinion, it would be a shame if we conclude the matter with a debate as to whether the right number for deer in Amberley Village is 125 or 50.