

Special Board Meeting Minutes (DNR)
Farmington Town Board
Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6:00pm
E913 Prairie View Ln
www.farmingtonwaup.gov

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. Chair Kevin Will presided. The opening statement was given. Notices were properly published and posted.

Open Meeting Statement: This meeting and all meetings of this Town Board are open to the public. Proper notice has been posted and given to the press, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, so the citizens may be aware of the time, place, and agenda of this meeting.

Roll Call: Kevin Will, Chair; Craig Nelson, Supervisor I; Phil Durrant, Supervisor II; Anjela Hamm, Clerk.

Approve Agenda: A motion by Craig Nelson, seconded by Phil Durrant, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

New Business:

- 1. Discussion regarding deer population concerns on Melody Lane, Kelleen Drive, and Park Lane Drive. DNR representative Jacob Fries will be present to answer questions, provide guidance on potential mitigation plans, and discuss possible grants available to the Township. The public is welcome to attend this meeting; however, there will be no public input. The purpose of the meeting is to gather information on the subject and review the Town's options moving forward.**

Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Biologist Jacob Fries attended the meeting to provide information regarding deer population mitigation efforts. Jacob, who serves both Waushara and Waupaca Counties, noted that he recently assisted with some aspects of the Urban Deer Hunt in the City of Waupaca.

Jacob explained: Town of Farmington is approximately 30% agricultural, creating an ideal habitat for deer. The deer population has increased by roughly 60% over the past ten years, averaging about a 6% increase per year. He addressed questions regarding hunting within subdivisions, explaining that towns cannot regulate where

hunters may hunt but rather how the weapon may be discharged. Antlerless permits are available from the DNR, and the archery and crossbow season runs from September 15 through the first week of January. There are plenty of permits available for interested residents; however, it may not be practical for subdivisions due to how close hunters might need to be to a home. Collaboration with neighbors is essential for that.

Nuisance Deer Permits would be issued to the local government. The suggested timeframe for such efforts would be January - March, when cold weather limits food sources and deer are more easily attracted to baited food. Efforts before that period are not recommended, as deer tend to group together during the winter, making management more effective later in the season. A managed hunt could also be conducted by the neighborhood through archery only, without direct DNR involvement. Jacob stated that the Town of Farmington would not be eligible for grant funding for sharpshooting or other mitigation efforts.

Jacob discussed 2 other mitigation options with DNR involvement. The DNR has previously facilitated sharpshooting programs, where professional sharpshooters set up stands in open spaces, such as behind homes, and shoot the deer over bait at night. This approach can be costly, averaging around \$200 per deer. Other options include large live traps, with deer transported to a slaughter facility, also can be costly.

Fencing has also proven effective in deterring deer and influencing their behavior patterns.

The DNR's role is primarily to support and facilitate the decisions made by local governments. Jacob expressed his belief that deer overpopulation is a significant issue throughout Waupaca County and neighboring areas. He also emphasized that feeding deer is both illegal and detrimental, reiterating that it should not be done.

Jacob estimated that approximately 30% of the deer population in a given area would need to be removed to achieve meaningful results, though the Town could set different management goals. He cautioned that success requires a multi-year commitment, as deer populations quickly rebound. Even if all deer were removed from a subdivision one year, a large herd would likely return the next. Coordination with the Wisconsin Veterans Home could be beneficial, as deer have also been a

problem in their cemetery, and they may be interested in collaborating on mitigation efforts.

Further discussion regarding who could conduct sharpshooting. Jacob explained USDA Wildlife Service Department offers this service for a fee and has previously assisted the City of Waupaca, as well as many airports in the Country. The Board expressed concerns about the potential for deer repopulation, even after sharpshooting efforts. Board discussed that such a program would require a multi-year financial and planning commitment. It could also prompt requests from other subdivisions in Farmington having the same concerns.

While the Board acknowledged that the issue presents challenges and high costs, they agreed that the deer population problem is significant and warrants further research. The Town will gather additional information for the next discussion. The Board emphasized that this is an initial exploration only, no decisions or approvals have been made at this time. Future discussions will focus on duration, number of deer targeted, annual costs, and overall pros and cons. The Board also noted that this problem is not unique to Heritage Hills, as many surrounding areas are experiencing similar issues.

Jacob will provide the Clerk with contact information from other municipalities that have attempted deer mitigation efforts, including Wisconsin Rapids, which coordinated with local hunters to manage deer populations with minimal DNR involvement.

Over the next two months, the Town will continue to research this issue and work toward determining the best course of action. Jacob may also be invited back to review any formal or informal decisions made during this period.

Jacob addressed a few final questions regarding fencing, and the issue of how many deer is considered to be too many. He stated that, in his professional opinion, there are too many deer, but there is no specific number to determine that.

Adjournment: A motion by Phil Durrant, seconded by Craig Nelson, to adjourn at 7:00pm. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

**Submitted by,
Anjela Hamm – Town Clerk**