

Task Force Facilitator Cynn timer Gaasch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** Present - Cynn timer Gaasch, Facilitator  
Joseph Cantafio, Councilman  
Jonathan Brotka  
Sheri Courteau  
Amanda Escobar  
Robin Foster  
Brittany Hernon  
James Hinton  
Peter Holdsworth

Absent - Mary Earsing

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## **WELCOME**

Facilitator Gaasch introduced Brittany Hernon, the newest member of the task force.

Brittany Hernon has a background in biology and a master's degree in ecology; currently works for a non-profit that carries out invasive species management in Western New York; has organized invasive species removal workdays in West Seneca parks to involve the community in removing invasive plants; and she will use her background to guide decisions about deer.

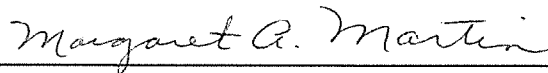
Ms. Gaasch stated each person that wished to speak would be given three minutes and reminded the audience the purpose of the meeting was for the task force members to hear the concerns of the public and not answer questions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Comments and questions received by members of the public:

- ✓ Summarized many points from previous meetings and emphasized support for non-lethal measures
- ✓ Solutions could be education, plant choices, and enforcing speed limits
- ✓ Concerned about residents discharging weapons if they are allowed to participate in a cull
- ✓ In favor of culling due to the large amount of deer and property damage they cause
- ✓ Deer population grows every year along with the destruction they cause
- ✓ Lost investment in landscaping and safety concerns when driving
- ✓ Fencing and deterrent sprays do not always work to keep deer out
- ✓ Concerned that lethal management is receiving too much focus, is not effective, and cited Amherst as an example of culling not solving deer problems
- ✓ Humans have created the problem and do not have the right to kill deer
- ✓ Would like the town to consult with gardening specialist Sandy Baker
- ✓ Enjoy seeing the deer
- ✓ New development has taken away natural habitat
- ✓ People should feed deer food that is healthy for them
- ✓ There will always be deer vehicle collisions
- ✓ Recalls raccoons being fed birth control and asked if something similar is available for deer

- ✓ Does not want the police to do the culling should the town choose that option, but would like a nuisance permit for qualified individuals that would include West Seneca residents
- ✓ Understands both sides of the issue and asked for additional information regarding deer vehicle collisions
- ✓ Believes deer feeding needs to be addressed, ticket offenders
- ✓ New development does take away natural habitat
- ✓ Agrees with non-lethal options and education but culling is also necessary for the health of the herd; his business processes and donates the venison from Cheektowaga and Lackawanna's culling program; and there is an absence of natural predators
- ✓ Relocate the deer
- ✓ Use the parks to teach youth how to hunt
- ✓ Asked if a deer population count will be done
- ✓ Referred to a study done by Cornell University stating if population levels are lowered artificially, reproduction increases and there is more migration from the outside
- ✓ How would culling solve the problems of Lyme disease and ticks
- ✓ The purpose of the Deer Task Force is to allow the Town Board and the Deer Task Force to avoid possible criticism and ensure it doesn't affect elections
- ✓ Take food sources away from the deer
- ✓ Culling is not a viable long term solution
- ✓ Mice and racoons carry most deer ticks, dog ticks do not carry Lyme Disease
- ✓ An environmentalist and loves deer, but has observed the hardship the deer encounter and believes the population needs to be reduced
- ✓ Ticket people who feed the deer
- ✓ Review zoning ordinances
- ✓ Pressure NYS Legislature and the DEC to end the trafficking and hunting of predators
- ✓ Cannot use and enjoy property due to the deer feces



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**Margaret A. Martin, Deputy Town Clerk**