

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES

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Ogden Dunes Residents:

February 17, 2012

As most of you know, the town engaged in a deer cull beginning at the end of November 2011. On January 23, the town agreed to voluntarily suspend the exercise of its rights under the Special Purpose Deer Control Permit issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, as amended on November 22, 2011, through the end of February 15, 2012. At its meeting on February 6, 2012, the Town Council authorized the formation of a deer management task force to examine various issues related to the deer population in Ogden Dunes, including the incidence of Lyme disease in the community.

I have asked the following residents, and they have agreed, to be members of this task force: Julie Doran, Tom Frain, Gerry Lehmann, Dawn Moore, Todd Shannon and Stephen Tallackson. Allen Johnson will represent the Town Council on the task force.

I am asking the task force to do the following:

1. Assess and interpret the data on the number of deer in Ogden Dunes based upon a flyover deer count
2. Research
 - Optimal numbers of deer relative to community size, geography and description.
 - Relationship between mice, ticks, deer and Lyme Disease, including tracking the incidence of Lyme Disease in Ogden Dunes, neighboring communities, the region and nationally.
 - Relationship between deer and the destruction of vegetation, including tracking the impact of deer on vegetation and undergrowth in Ogden Dunes.
 - Available methods for controlling mice & ticks, including costs and results achieved.
 - Available methods for controlling deer, including costs, advantages/disadvantages, permitting required, results achieved, and public safety issue.
 - National Park Service deer management plans for National Lakeshore and Inland Marsh
3. Community Education
 - Methods for personal and community tick control & management.
 - Lyme Disease mitigation

I will ask the task force to report on their research findings and make recommendations on appropriate deer management and Lyme disease mitigation solutions to the Town Council no later than its July 2, 2012 meeting.


Bill Gregory
Town Council President