

Chapel Hill Sustainability Committee

Resolution Concerning the Expanding Deer Population within Chapel Hill

November 16, 2009

Whereas the residents of two Chapel Hill neighborhoods have petitioned the Town Council this year to take action to cull the deer population within the town limits; and

Whereas it is known that deer populations can double every two to three years in the absence of predators; and

Whereas the number of vehicular accidents involving deer on North Carolina roads and highways has reached a record high in 2008 with 9.2% of vehicular accidents reported in the state of North Carolina involved a deer. There were a total of 19,693 deer-related crashes in 2008 (406 in Orange County) and 19,277 crashes reported statewide in 2007; and

Whereas deer carry ticks which can produce Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other diseases; and

Whereas urban deer produce significant property losses in vegetable gardens and ornamental shrubbery; and

Whereas the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has a process whereby local government can organize an Urban Archer program to safely cull its deer population; and

Whereas eighteen towns in North Carolina, including Pittsboro and Smithfield, plus Duke Forest, have culled deer populations under permits obtained from the NCWRC; and

Whereas the Chapel Hill Sustainability Committee as reviewed the Pittsboro Urban Archer Program (attached) and recommends that a similar program be established by Chapel Hill.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Chapel Hill Sustainability Committee petitions the Chapel Hill Town Council as follows:

1. The Town seek permission from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to organize an Urban Archer Program to safely cull the deer population within Chapel Hill. The Committee wants this early authorization so that in the event that the Town decides to go forward with such a program, there will not be undue delay in implementing it.
2. The Town staff study the Pittsboro Urban Archer Program to determine its applicability to some neighborhoods in Chapel Hill where the deer population has significantly grown in recent years, and identify those areas where an urban archer program would be appropriate and most effective.

3. The Council hold a public forum about the growing deer population within the town which reviews that public health and other hazards of this problem and presents various options for dealing with this problem. Invite someone from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, at least one person from another community that has been running an operation to cull deer populations, and a representative from the NC Bowhunters Association to participate as forum presenters.
4. The Town staff develop an Urban Archery program that meets Chapel Hill conditions, invite public comment, amend it as appropriate, and forward it to the Council for action.

**TOWN OF PITTSBORO
NORTH CAROLINA**

**SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR THE URBAN ARCHERY
DEER HUNTING PROGRAM**



September 14, 2009

General. The 2009-2010 Urban Archery Hunting Program will be conducted under the North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest effective July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has also authorized the Town of Pittsboro to participate in the special 2010 Urban Archery Season from January 9, 2010 to February 13, 2010. The purpose of these supplementary regulations is to provide information on the administration of the Pittsboro Urban Archery Season. Administration of the Pittsboro Urban Archery Program will fall under the duties of the Chief of Police.

1. Advance Preparation for Hunting. It will be necessary for hunters and property owners to take certain specific actions in preparation for the Urban Archery hunting season as outlined below.
 - a. Town Hunting Permit. Persons desiring a Pittsboro Urban Archery Hunting Permit shall make application with the Pittsboro Police Chief at Town Hall. Town Permits are non-transferable and shall only authorize the named hunter to participate in an Urban Deer Hunt pursuant to any restrictions contained therein during the annual season designated on the Permit. A copy of the permit application form appears at Tab (A). There will be a \$25.00 administrative fee for the permit. The following information will be required upon submission of a permit application:
 - 1) Presentation and copy of photo I.D.
 - 2) Copy of a certificate of completion of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission free hunting and safety course.
 - 3) Presentation and copy of valid and current State of North Carolina Hunting License.
 - 4) Proof of age (Driver's license or birth certificate). Only those persons who are eighteen (18) years or older at the time of application shall be eligible for and Urban Archery Deer Hunting Permit.
 - 5) A description of a unique identification mark to be place on each arrow near the fletched end. Markings must be unique to each hunter, legible and marked in waterproof ink.
 - b. Archery Skills Proficiency Test. After making application for a hunting permit, the applicant may schedule an appointment for an archery skills proficiency test to be administered by the Pittsboro Police Department. The details of the proficiency test appear at Tab (B).
 - c. Letter of Permission from Property Owner. Each hunter will be required to obtain written permission from the owner of the property where they will hunt. A copy of this letter will be held on file in the office of the Chief of Police and the hunter must have a copy in their position while hunting. The property owner may restrict hunting on their

property with respect to dates, times and location. Unless otherwise specified in the letter of permission from the property owner, it will be assumed that it is the responsibility of the hunter to remove and properly dispose of all parts of a harvested deer. If the property owner wishes to allow the hunter to field dress deer on the property and leave gut piles and other deer parts on the property; that permission must be specifically provided in the letter from the property owner.

- d. Registration of Hunting Stands or Elevated Blinds. Hunting will be authorized only from preapproved specific hunting stands, elevated blinds or trees. Prior to approval, these locations will be inspected by a Pittsboro Police Officer to ensure that they comply with the safety criteria in these supplemental regulations. Prior to calling for an inspection and approval of a hunting site, the hunter must prepare a range card (see example at Tab (C)) with the following information. After inspection and approval, hunting stand locations will be numbered and registered on a list of approved sites to be maintained by the Chief of Police.
 - 1) Name address and phone number of the property owner.
 - 2) Name address and phone number of the hunter registering the location.
 - 3) North Arrow
 - 4) Direction and distance to nearest Town or NCDOT road.
 - 5) Direction and distance to nearest occupied dwelling.
 - 6) Location of the tree stand or hunting platform.
 - 7) Elevation of the base of the stand from the ground. (The minimum requirement is 10 feet of elevation form the ground to the base where the hunter will stand or sit.)
 - 8) The direction of fire will be marked with right and left boundaries or may be marked by a 360 degree circle, at a distance not to exceed 30 yards from the base of the stand, to indicate that it is safe to shoot an arrow in any direction from the stand. Under no circumstances will shots be taken beyond the 30 yard marker from the base of the stand.
3. Procedures for the Day of the Hunt. The following procedures will be followed on the day of hunt.
 - a. Permitted hunters shall conduct themselves in accordance with the North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest effective July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, the Town of Pittsboro Supplemental Regulations for the Urban Archery Deer Hunting Program and any restrictions provided for in the letter of permission from the property owner.

b. Check-in and Check-out Procedures

- 1) Prior to occupying a deer stand to begin a hunt, the hunter must call in to the Pittsboro Police Department via the Chatham County Dispatcher (919-542-2911) and report their full name, the registered deer stand number to be hunted and the estimated duration of the hunt.
- 2) Upon completion of hunting, the hunter must call the Pittsboro Police Department via the Chatham County Dispatcher (919-542-2911) and report that they have finished hunting for the day.
- 3) A hunter shall report and the time, date, place and sex of any deer harvested by the hunter to the Pittsboro Police Chief during normal working hours and within 72 hours by calling (919) 542-4621 ext. 21 or ext 25.

4. Procedures for Property Owners to Register Tracts of Land for Designation as Authorized Urban Hunting Tracts.

- a. A person or persons owning a tract of land desiring to have their property designated as an Urban Hunting Tract for an Urban Deer Hunt shall make application with the Pittsboro Police Chief at Town Hall.
- b. An application for designation of property as an Urban Archery Hunting Tract shall be on the form at Tab (D) accompanied by the following:
 - 1) A plat, map, or other instrument identifying with sufficient particularity the boundary of the property to be designated;
 - 2) Documentation sufficient to verify all ownership interests in the property;
 - 3) Documentation sufficient to verify the ownership interest and authority of the applicant or applicants to submit the property for designation as an Urban Hunting Tract, and to grant permission, on behalf of those who have ownership interests in the property, to hunters desiring to participate in the activities contemplated by these supplemental rules and the enabling ordinance;
 - 4) For the purposes of this section, tax maps and other information maintained in the Town Planning Department may be accepted as prima facie evidence of boundaries and ownership interests.
 - 5) At the Pittsboro Police Chief's discretion and subject to applicant verification, documentation from a prior year's application may be incorporated by reference for purpose of meeting the requirements outlined herein; provided, there has been no material change in ownership interests or property boundaries since the initial submittal.

- 6) Upon designation, the location of an Urban Hunting Tract shall be posted on the Town of Pittsboro website.

5. Other Special Provisions

- a. Hunting will be prohibited in town parks and there will be no hunting within 100 yards of any town parks.
- b. There will be no hunting within 100 yards of any public school or church.
- c. There will be no hunting with 50 yards of any occupied dwelling, residential or commercial.
- c. There will be no hunting within 50 yards of any Town Street or NCDOT road.
- d. Any two hunting stands located in close proximity must be at least 50 yards apart. For any two hunting stands located less than 100 yards apart, the required range card must show both locations and both locations must include a 45 degree "no fire zone" bisected by a direct line between the two stands.
- e. Notice is hereby given that the Town of Pittsboro makes no warranties and assumes no liability for the actions of persons permitted to participate in an Urban Deer Hunt and/or permitted to hunt on any Urban Hunting Tract. Nothing herein shall prevent the voluntary or contractual shifting of any risk of loss by and between property owners and permitted hunters.
- f. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, the Pittsboro Police Chief shall retain absolute discretion, subject to the enabling ordinance, to issue, deny, or revoke an Urban Hunting Tract designation with respect to any particular tract or tracts, or to limit or condition the same in any manner, for any reason or no reason.
- g. Hunters shall conduct themselves in accordance with all other provisions of the enabling ordinance and applicable State laws, rules, and regulations.
- h. Hunting with a cross-bow is strictly prohibited.
- i. Bow-and-arrow hunting is limited to longbows and recurved bows having a minimum pull of 40 pounds and compound bows with a minimum pull of 35 pounds. Only arrows with a fixed minimum broadhead width of 7/8 inch or a mechanically opening broadhead with a minimum width of 7/8 inch in the open position may be used for taking deer. Poisonous, drugged, barbed or explosive arrowheads may not be used for taking any game.
- j. A hunter shall make every reasonable effort to track a wounded deer for the purpose of completing the harvest and recovering the carcass. In the event that a wounded deer is

not recovered or leaves the permitted hunting tract, the hunter shall immediately notify the Pittsboro Police Department and provide sufficient information to enable the Town of Pittsboro to attempt to track and retrieve the deer. The hunter shall not track wounded deer on to adjacent private property without the express written permission of the property owner.

- k. A person exercising privileges granted pursuant to a Town Permit shall thereby voluntarily assume full responsibility for any risks of loss, property damage or personal injury, including death, caused or incurred by the hunter and shall indemnify and hold the Town of Pittsboro harmless from any such claims.
- l. A person exercising privileges granted pursuant to a Town Permit on an Urban Hunting Tract which is owned or controlled, in whole or part, by the Town of Pittsboro shall, without need for further evidence of assent, be deemed to have released, waived, discharged and to have covenanted not to sue the Town of Pittsboro for any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained, whether caused by the negligence of the Town of Pittsboro, the condition of the property, or otherwise, while participating in such activities.
- m. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, the Pittsboro Police Chief shall retain the absolute discretion, subject to the enabling ordinance, to issue, deny, or revoke a Town Urban Deer Hunting Permit, or to limit or condition the same in any manner, for any reason or no reason.

Application for Town of Pittsboro Urban Archery Hunting Permit

Name: _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

NC Driver's license #: _____

NC Hunting License #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date Completed NC Hunter Safety Course: _____

Description of Unique Arrow Markings: _____

Who shall we contact in an emergency?

Name: _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Town of Pittsboro
Urban Archery Skills Test

Prior to being issued a Pittsboro Urban Archery Hunting Permit, each hunter will be required to complete a basic archery skills test to confirm that they have the minimum skill to safely hunt with archery equipment. The test will be administered by the Pittsboro Police Department by appointment only. To make a skills test appointment, call (919) 542-4621 ext. 21 or ext. 25.

The skills test will be administered from a 10-foot elevated platform at a distance of 30 yards from a ground level target consisting of hay bales and a paper target. The target will be a standard eight (8) inch bull's eye with six scoring rings from 10 to 5. The 10 ring through 7 ring are in the black bull's eye (inner 8 inches). The 6 and 5 rings are in the white border and are one inch wide. The total width of the scoring area is 12 inches. Any hits outside of the five ring will be scored as zero points.

Each hunter will be permitted two practice shots to calibrate their equipment. The scored test will consist of three shots.

A passing score will be 21 points out of a possible 30 points.

Arrows that break or touch a scoring line will be scored at the higher number. The police officer administering the test will be the sole judge of the scoring of the target.

Hunters to fail to achieve a passing score may schedule a re-shoot two weeks after their initial test.

Hunters who fail their second attempt will not be retested until the following season.

Town of Pittsboro Urban Archery
Sample Deer Hunting Blind/Stand/Platform Range Card

Name of Property Owner: TOWN OF PITTSBORO

Address of Property Owner: 635 EAST ST, PITTSBORO, NC 27312



Inspected by: _____
(Police Officer Signature)

Stand No. # 1
(Assigned by Police Chief)

Approved by: _____
(Property Owner's Signature)

Town of Pittsboro
Application for Designation of Property as an Urban Archery Hunting Tract

Property Owner's Name: _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Property Owners Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

I wish to register the property show on the attached plat as an Urban Archery Hunting Tract under the Town of Pittsboro Urban Archery Deer Hunting Program. I hereby certify that I am the legal owner of this property and have the authority to authorize hunting on my property.

I understand that I must provide a written permission letter to each hunter that I authorize to hunt on my property and that I have the right to list any restrictions of hunting on my property in the authorization letter.

I understand that I must review and approve range cards for specific hunting sites before a hunter will be permitted to hunt on my property under this program.

I wish to have my phone number made available on the Town website so that potential hunters may contact be directly to seek my permission to hunt on this property. (Check one)

Yes

No

(Signature)

(Date)