

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.