



Village of Sagaponack

3175 Montauk Highway P.O. Box 600 Sagaponack, N.Y. 11962

631-537-0017 Fax-537-0612

Email: sagaponack@optonline.net

Mayor

William F. Tillotson

Clerk-Treasurer

Rosemarie Cary Winchell

Village Attorney

Brian T. Egan, Esq. – Egan & Golden LLP

Trustees

Lisa Duryea Thayer

William Barbour

Carrie Thayer Crowley

Marilyn Clark

August 2023

RE: Wild Life Management Program

Dear Property Owner:

In 2018, the Village of Sagaponack established a Wild Life Management Program to address the explosive population of deer within the Village. Our program is a multi-year program which is designed to reduce the deer population to a healthy level for both the deer and the residents of Sagaponack. After five years, we can report that the program is fully developed and implemented.

Our program is managed by Woods & Waves Management Inc. who trains, certifies and monitors the 160 volunteer hunters that are involved in our program. At any given time, Woods & Waves can identify the location, name and vehicle of the hunter who is hunting under our program within the Village. The hunting season begins in October and ends in January. However, given the size of the deer population in the Village, we have been given approval by the NYS DEC to extend our season into April.

In 2018 the Woods & Waves Program began conducting annual studies on deer densities within the Village. These studies concluded that deer *sightings per hour* (SPR – a metric to measure the density of deer population) were the highest of all of the east end deer programs. Since then, 639 deer have been safely removed with no negative impacts to the residents. The reduction of 504 female deer has prevented the birth of approximately 1008 additional fawns to the area (assuming 2 fawns per doe). This is an estimated reduction of 1,647+ deer (1008 fawns not Introduced +639 deer removed) not occupying Sagaponack. There is a steady downward trend in SPR over the past 5 years further confirming the reduction in deer population.

The measurement of success for our program would be the reduction in the deer population which will result in

- less tick borne disease infections
- native vegetation re-growth
- less damage to ornamental bushes, trees and gardens
- reduction in damage to Sagaponack farms and crops
- reduced car vs. deer accidents.

On October 1 we will begin the sixth year of our program. Many of your neighbors currently allow for hunting on their properties and we have received no complaints or had any issues with the hunters placed on these properties. As we enter our sixth year of the program, we are looking to expand the number of properties to offer greater success of our program. The protection of your property and plantings from the numerous deer herd is a benefit you are entitled to as a resident of Sagaponack.

Woods & Waves continues to assess the seasonal migration of the deer population within the Village to determine what areas would afford us the greatest success to achieve our goals. We are offering this program to you to protect your family and property. If you are interested in the program or have any questions, please contact me at Village Hall via email, phone or in person. All my contact information is listed above.

If you wish to be part of the program please complete the attached *Land Owners Endorsement* form supplied by the NYSDEC and email, mail or deliver to the village office.

Thank you for your consideration in becoming an active participant in our program. If you are already participating in the program, we appreciate your cooperation which has allowed for its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rosemarie Cary Winchell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rosemarie Cary Winchell, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer

CC: Mayor Tillotson and Board of Trustees