

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes
July 5, 2017 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Art Johnson; Supervisors Bill Peck, Dan Pemrick, Tom Richardson, Matthew Veitch and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Jason Kemper, Planning; Michael Zurlo, Rick Castle, Sheriff.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Johnson said that he has invited Sheriff Zurlo and Jason Kemper to the meeting to discuss target shooting on county forest land, in particular two parcels, one in the Town of Wilton and one in the Town of Northumberland. Both the Sheriff's Department and the Planning Department have been involved with this issue.

Mr. Johnson said that for the Loudon Road property in the Town of Wilton, there is a highly used County Trail that goes through the property. The target shooting on county land is taking place close to the trail where people hike. He has received numerous complaints from residents in this area complaining about the noise and also the safety of pets and children. Mr. Johnson said that there is a state wildlife management area adjacent to the property.

Mr. Kemper said that cameras are used on parcels when they have problems in particular areas. Cameras were situated so that they could monitor part of the area. Mr. Kemper said that the target shooting is occurring close to the boundary line of the County and State parcels. Mr. Kemper said that several of the cameras have already gone missing.

Mr. Johnson said that he spoke with County Attorney Steve Dorsey and apparently the county does not have any laws or rules against discharging firearms on county forest property.

Mr. Johnson passed around photographs of littering, tree damage and targets.

Mr. Zurlo said that his department has been working closely with Jason Kemper. When they respond to these complaints the shooters are gone by the time they get there. Mr. Castle said that there is nothing to enforce if they do get to the area and target shooting is occurring.

Mr. Peck said that the parcel in the Town of Northumberland on Pettis Road does not have a county trail but they have received complaints about noise and garbage in the area. Mr. Kemper said that several cameras have gone missing in this area, they have blocked the entrance with tree trunks, cables, etc. to ensure that cars park closer to the road however within a few days he returns to find the entrance re-opened.

Mr. Peck said that he would like to encourage moving forward with something so that signs can be posted and give enforcement power to the Sheriff.

Mr. Johnson said that a local law could be introduced which would be specific to these parcels only. Mr. Johnson said that the DEC ranger that monitors this area has asked him for a letter of support to be submitted to the regional director to restrict target hunting on the state portion of the Wilton area.

Sheriff Zurlo recommended that all firearms be restricted from the Loudon Road property due to the fact that it's so close to the county trail. Mr. Johnson confirmed with the committee that they

should move forward and have Mr. Dorsey draft a local law to be introduced at next month's meeting. Mr. Kemper said that he would have a gate installed at the Pettis road location.

Mr. Kinowski reported that the state Legislature recently approved legislation to allow the Town of Malta to set its own speed limits. A brief discussion ensued.

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board