



Village of Cayuga Heights

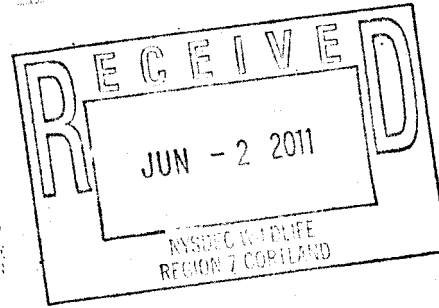
MARCHAM HALL
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ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850

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Kathryn D. Supron, Mayor
Mary E. Mills, Clerk
Angela M. Korbel, Deputy Clerk
Jeffrey A. Silber, Treasurer
Brent A. Cross, Engineer

May 31, 2011

Steve Joule
Regional Wildlife Manager
NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife, Region 7
1285 Fisher Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045



Dear Mr. Joule.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am writing to apply for a Deer Damage Permit that will allow sterilization and culling to reduce the size of the deer herd in the Village of Cayuga Heights.

The size of the deer population within the Village's 1.84 square miles is estimated at approximately 100 deer per square mile. Serious problems, such as extensive damage to the natural environment and ornamental plantings, deer vehicle accidents, and an increased incidence of Lyme disease in Tompkins County necessitate our taking action.

The Village has studied the problem of its excess deer population extensively through resident committees that were active from 1999 to 2001 and from 2008 to 2009. Eighteen months were then devoted to a very thorough conduct of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), between November 2009 and April 2011. Documentation of these exhaustive efforts to study the issue and arrive at the best possible course of action is available on the Village website under "Deer Population Control." (<http://cayuga-heights.ny.us>)

The documentation on the Village's website includes a large section on SEQR, including the Long Environmental Assessment Form, draft Environmental Impact Statement, Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Findings Statement. Many educational resources on deer management are linked. These materials have been filed, as required under SEQR, with the DEC and published, as required under SEQR, in the Environmental Notice Bulletin.

Until this point, damage to natural and planted vegetation has been assessed through observation and property owner complaints, and the extent of this damage has been extrapolated from the forage requirements of the estimated herd (DEIS, Existing

Conditions, page 3-3). We plan to collect baseline "browse" data that will be used to assess the impact of the deer population on the natural and planted landscape as we move forward with the program.

The length of time that has been devoted to studying our deer problem has provided many opportunities for community outreach and education. The Deer Remediation Advisory Committee (DRAC) that was active in 2008 and 2009 mailed an informational flyer to each Village residence in March of 2009, held two public forums that month and posted information on its website. The DRAC information has since been incorporated into the Village website section on deer control, where a timeline for these outreach efforts is available, along with such educational resources as a list of deer resistant plants and information on Lyme disease. The Board of Trustees held Public Hearings prior to beginning SEQR in November 2009 and again on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in December 2010.

The Village of Lansing, to the north of Cayuga Heights, and Cornell University, to the south, have undertaken regulated hunting programs or deer management programs for several years – the former using bow hunting and the latter employing a combination of sterilization and culling. The Village of Cayuga Heights is too densely populated for managed hunting. Our population of just under 4,000 residents live in approximately 1,000 homes on lots that are typically an acre or less in size. The Village also contains a small commercial zone, multi-family apartment units, fraternity houses, and Cornell University buildings. There are almost no tracts of suitable undeveloped land to be used for hunting.

Because of this dense settlement pattern, we propose a program that will combine the surgical sterilization of a core population of approximately 20-40 does with culling the remaining herd to bring the deer population down to a goal of approximately 30 animals. We feel that this density of deer (15 per square mile) will result in a much better balance of benefits and conflicts associated with deer in our community.

In order to capture does for sterilization, clover or drop net traps are likely the best methods. Darting with tranquilizers at bait sites is another option if the 500 foot firearms discharge rule can be met. The number of does captured in traps will determine if darting is also needed. Once captured, does will be surgically sterilized on-site or at Cornell University veterinary facilities, ear tagged, and released.

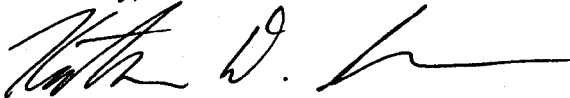
Culling will be employed to immediately reduce the herd size. Our preferred method would be utilizing professional sharpshooters with rifles from stands at bait sites, assuming we can meet the 500 foot firearms discharge rule at enough locations within the Village. However, if that is not feasible, we may need also to employ other culling methods. It is for this reason that we are requesting authorization in advance for netting and bolting. Culling by either method will leave the deer meat edible. The Southern Tier Food Bank has given us formal notification that they will accept the meat harvested through their venison donation program.

Having a tagged population of does will allow for accurate deer population monitoring using a camera survey method. Given the porous borders of the Village, there will be a need to track population growth from in-migration and subsequent births. The actions being undertaken in surrounding communities (bow hunting in the Village of Lansing and surgical sterilization of does and managed hunting on the Cornell University property) should help to mitigate deer population growth in Cayuga Heights. Over time, additional sterilization or culling will be needed to maintain a reduced and stable population of deer in the Village.

In order to implement the program described above, we would like to apply for a Deer Damage Permit, or any other applicable authorizations, to allow the above work to be conducted and evaluated over the next two years. Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information from the Village.

With thanks for your assistance in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate W. Supron', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Supron
Mayor, Village of Cayuga Heights

Cc: Ken Lynch, DEC, Region 7, Syracuse Office
Dan Bishop, DEC, Region 7, Cortland Sub-office
Gordon Batcheller, DEC Central Office, Albany



Deer Damage Permit Application

Complete and return to:

NYS DEC Region 7 Wildlife Office
1285 Fisher Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: (607)753-3095 Fax: (607)753-8532

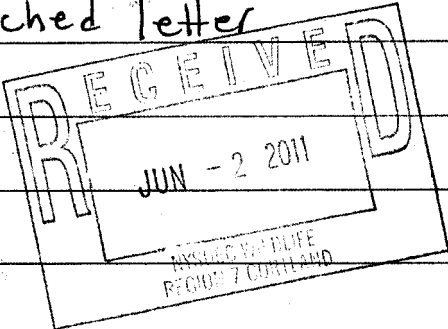
All information requested must be provided. Incomplete applications will be returned. Please note that a site inspection may be conducted to verify information provided even after a permit has been issued.

Applicant Name: Board of Trustees	Organization Name (if applicable): Village of Cayuga Heights
Street Address: 836 Hanshaw Road	Daytime Phone: 607/257-1238
City/State/Zip: Ithaca, NY 14850	E-mail: VCH-Trustees@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Type of Damage Occurring: (check all that apply)
 Home Garden/Ornamentals Agricultural/Field Crops Nursery/Christmas Trees Forest Regeneration
 Natural Community Community Garden Airport/Roadway Strike Hazard Other: _____
Description of Most Significant Damage: **Please see attached letter.**

Other Damage-abatement Methods Used: (check all that apply)
 Scare or Noise Device Repellent Fence Non-lethal Slugs Alternate Plantings Other: _____
Is deer hunting permitted within the area damage is occurring? Yes No
Is there a deer management plan for the area damage is occurring? Yes No

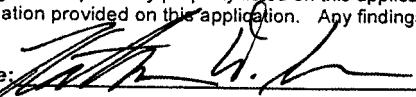
Justification for use of Deer Damage Permit:
Please see attached letter



Culling Method To Be Used: (Please attach written plan describing culling objectives, activities, personnel, etc.)
 Sharp-shooting
 Other: **Please see attached letter**

Location of Culling Activities:
County: **Tompkins** Town: **Ithaca** Municipality: **Village of Cayuga Heights**
Location: Tax ID # _____ OR include a map illustrating the boundary within which permit will be used. **(attached)**
Will shooting occur within 500 feet of any dwellings, farm buildings, schools or churches? Yes No
If yes, you must obtain written permission to discharge from any and all property owners/managers.

Applicant Agreement/Certification: Pursuant to Section 11-0521 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) I hereby apply for a Deer Damage Permit as authorized by the ECL and as instructed. I affirm by the signature below, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained on this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am aware that false statements made herein are punishable as Class A misdemeanors pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law. I further understand that, upon filing of this application with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), DEC has the right to inspect any property listed on this application at any time up until the permit expiration date in order to confirm information provided on this application. Any findings of false statements may lead to immediate permit revocation.

Applicant Signature:  Date: **5-31-11**