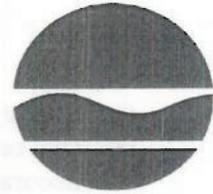


NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
Bureau of Wildlife
625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4754
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Joe Martens
Commissioner

November 16, 2012

Kathryn D. Supron, Mayor
Village of Cayuga Heights
Marcham Hall
836 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Mayor Supron:

I am writing to affirm the Department's willingness to modify LCP #1708 in response to your October 30 request by letter to Joseph Therrien in our Special Licenses Unit. However, I would like to explain some of the rationale for our approving this request.

We remain committed to helping the Village implement a comprehensive deer management program, of which sterilization of does is just one part. We understand the challenges you face in finding suitable locations for culling deer from the population, and urge you to continue seeking ways to do that in the coming year and beyond. Our recently adopted statewide Deer Management Plan (www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/deerplan2012.pdf) states that "*Fertility control should be used in combination with other management techniques since it cannot alone reduce already over abundant populations in a reasonable timeframe... Therefore, we will require that a hunting program be implemented where possible and that culling be given serious consideration in and around any areas where deer fertility control is proposed.*" This could include sharpshooting, controlled hunting or "capture and kill" options, and we acknowledge the efforts you have made in this regard. Please let us know if we can do anything to help you implement a controlled hunting or culling program in the future.

Previous correspondence from the Village indicated that the current deer density and associated impacts were unacceptable. With sterilization alone, we do not expect to see a significant reduction in the number of adult deer in the community for many years. The originally planned program of sterilization combined with culling had the potential to accomplish the desired deer population reduction (to 15 per square mile, as stated in your May 31, 2011 letter to Steve Joule), whereas sterilization alone is unlikely to accomplish this in the foreseeable future. Without culling, we expect that deer-vehicle collisions will be the primary mortality factor contributing to population stability or reduction. The research planned by Dr. Paul Curtis at Cornell should be able to document what actually occurs to the local deer population, and associated impacts.

Nevertheless, we understand the Village needs to do whatever it can in the mean time, and sterilizing up to 145 does as part of a scientific study may help to stem population growth by reducing the annual production of fawns in the short term. Therefore, we have concluded that

the Village should be allowed to expand the sterilization program at this time because of the potential research benefits and as a first step to achieving its deer management goals. However, we encourage the Village to take the steps necessary to facilitate lethal deer control in the future.

Please contact Mr. Steven Joule, Region 7 Wildlife Manager, at (607) 753-3095 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gordon R. Batcheller
Chief Wildlife Biologist

Cc: S. Joule

[Type text]