



Keith McGill <kmcgill@mtlebanon.org>

Re: Sharpshooting Q&A questions

1 message

Anthony DeNicola <tony.denicola@whitebuffaloinc.org>
To: Keith McGill <kmcgill@mtlebanon.org>

Wed, Dec 23, 2015 at 6:14 PM

Keith,

See below replies inserted:

I have several questions about the sharpshooting program as it is presented in the FAQ. Could you please pass my questions on to incoming Commissioner McLean as well?

I just want to state again that I'm strongly opposed to weapons like this in our densely populated community and I am very concerned about the safety of residents and children as a result of this program. Concerns over safety often arise when deer sharpshooting programs are considered. However, there has never been a public safety incident when using trained wildlife professionals working in concert with local law enforcement. These programs are designed to be implemented while residents go about their daily lives. We will work closely with the police department to make sure this program is no different.

Thank you for your time.

1. Can you clarify the shooting dates?

The FAQ says Feb 1 - March 31, but the Deer Mgmt. Update of Dec. 11 says Feb. 1 - March 1. We plan to have the option to work from 1 February through 31 March 2016

2. Which days of the week will shooting will take place? What are the exact hours? Why is sharpshooting occurring at all in the daylight hours when, in the past, it has been done only at night? We will work 7 days a week on private property. Specifics on public land have yet to be determined. It is in the program's best interest to work around the public's activities for safety, efficiency, and discretionary reasons. We will work a few hours before dark in some areas and the remaining efforts will take place after dark. No morning or mid-day shooting is planned.

3. When will the locations for shooting be finalized? How many will there be, and will they be throughout the municipality concentrated in particular areas? We will try to have even access throughout the community for the best possible outcome in regard to evenly reducing deer densities. Final points of access are still being processed.

4. Who is or will be involved in establishing the "safety" of these locations, and what considerations go into determining what constitutes a "safe" location to shoot in this community? We will have officials from the police department inspect every shooting location and we will provide the exact details on the operations at each for their consideration and feedback.

5. Will the municipality require that neighbors of private properties where shooting will take place be notified of the

activity occurring near their homes? All neighbors that can see the shooting areas will be noticed and we will get their support.

6. What types of guns will be used? Are they automatic or semi-automatic rifles? What are the distances can projectiles from these guns travel? We will primarily use .22 caliber rimfire rifles, in bolt action, with subsonic ammunition. This is the safest, quietest approach. On properties with larger undeveloped areas proximate we may use bolt action .223 caliber rifles. We will only shoot from very elevated positions so all projectiles will enter the ground within the designated safe shooting zone if a deer moves when engaged. Otherwise, all projectiles remain in the deer's tissue and do not exit.

7. The RFP specifically asks for responses from contractors who have had experience sharpshooting deer in "densely populated suburban areas with limited open space". Can you please ask Dr. DeNicola whether he has ever done any safe, successful sharpshooting programs in an area as geographically small and as densely populated as Mt. Lebanon? If so, how many? I am looking for a detailed response that mentions specific locations and dates, and population densities. Please refer to our website (www.whitebuffaloinc.org) for our Business Portfolio. We have never had a safety incident in more than 20 years working around the country and the world.

8. As of now, the only public information out there on the sharpshooting program is via the website. Not everyone has access to that. How will the public at large be made aware of the dates, times, and locations of sharpshooting so that they can make informed decisions for themselves and their children -- to avoid any areas they feel uncomfortable about given sharpshooting nearby? I am thinking specifically about the use of the parks and the golf course for sledding by kids after snowfall. We will not know the exact days or times for any location until the morning of the removal efforts. The weather and relative deer activity at each location dictates our planning. We do not often get accurate enough weather information until the morning of operations. We will not work near highly active locations and we will have determined those areas of concern in advance.

9. Since it is a federal law, I assume the Municipality will guarantee that the Federal Gun Free Safety Zone Act provisions are met, which prohibits discharge of firearms within 1000 feet of a school. Can you please explain to me as a parent of a school-aged walking child how this information will be communicated and enforced with sharpshooters (will there be special maps or documents created delineating these sites, etc.?) We will comply with this restriction.

10. Similarly, how will the municipality handle after-school and after-hours school-based activities, walking, etc to ensure student safety? Many older use the parks to walk through, and as a resident pointed out, many teens use the parks at night even though they shouldn't. Will there be a curfew? We always work around public activities and assume people will be in all areas that we are active. We have very well defined zones of operation where we can see all that is proximate and could be affected by our actions.

And a Merry Christmas to you and Family,

Tony



Anthony J. DeNicola Ph.D. | President | White Buffalo Inc.
M: (860) 790-0224 | tony.denicola@whitebuffaloinc.org
Find Us: whitebuffaloinc.org | Facebook | LinkedIn

On Wed, Dec 23, 2015 at 10:29 AM, Keith McGill <kmcgill@mtlebanon.org> wrote:

Good Morning Tony. I received this email today. If you could provide a response to me as part of the