

North Andover Conservation Commission, Hunting Subcommittee
Recommendation Regarding Hunting on Half Mile Hill and Adjacent Parcels
September 12, 2007

Summary: The NACC Hunting subcommittee has conducted research and collected field data to develop a recommendation for the practicality of Hunting and Public Safety on the following open space parcels: Half Mile Hill, Half Mile Hill Summit, Osgood Hill, and Sunnyridge . Based on our findings, the Subcommittee recommends that the North Andover Conservation Commission allow only Archery type Hunting be allowed on Half Mile Hill, Half Mile Hill Summit, and Sunnyridge (“hunting parcels”). Primary factors considered in the recommendation are:

- Negative impacts of extensive deer browsing on native vegetative and wildlife species, as observed on a technical site walk on 8/27/07, along with their potential effects on water quality in Lake Cochickewick, the town’s primary drinking water supply.
- Proximity of a Pre-School, residential homes, and a conference center to the hunting parcels.
- Similar issues faced by the State of Massachusetts in 1991 and following, within the watershed of the Quabbin Reservoir, in which hunting was implemented as a solution to negative environmental impacts and potential water quality erosion caused by over browsing of vegetation by growing deer populations.

Specific features and administrative considerations for the hunting recommendation appear below.

1. Hunting is restricted to Bow Hunting of both male and female deer within the hunting parcels within this recommendation. **No discharge of firearms is permitted on the Half Mile Hill, Half Mile Hill Summit, and Sunnyridge parcels at any time for any reason.**
2. **Discharging a bow from within 600 ft. of the Family Daycare Pre-School is strictly prohibited.** Notice of this prohibition will be posted on the 600 ft. set-back line during each hunting season by the N.A. Conservation Department.
3. Hunting will be permitted throughout the entire deer hunting season, including bow, shotgun and muzzle loader seasons.
4. Only duly licensed hunters with current Massachusetts hunting licenses will be granted license to hunt on the hunting parcels. Hunting activities are **limited to a maximum of three active hunters** at any given time, as assigned by the Conservation office.
5. Interested hunters must apply at the N.A. Conservation office for consideration for one-week licenses issued by the N.A.C.C. Prospective hunters may apply for multiple one-week licenses within the current hunting season. First preference will be granted to hunters who are

current residents of North Andover. Out-of town applicants may be granted one-week license to hunt on the parcel if any openings remain after in-town applicants.

6. In-town residents may apply for one-week hunting licenses on the hunting parcels at the N.A. Conservation Office between the hours of 9 AM and 3 PM during the first two full weeks in October. Out of town applicants may apply during similar hours during the second full week in October.
7. All hunters who apply for consideration to hunt on the parcel must present a current and valid Massachusetts hunting license for photocopying, along with vehicle information including the make, model, color, and registration number of their vehicle used for hunting activities.