



## Dying conservation lands & forests

The Committee's work  
is supported by  
the Town of Medfield's  
Board of Selectmen  
Police Department  
Conservation Commission  
Board of Health

And  
The Trustees of  
Reservations

Mass. Division of  
Fisheries & Wildlife



## Public health, safety & local ecology

The Medfield Lyme Disease  
Study Committee's mission is  
to educate residents on Lyme  
disease and the importance of  
deer population management  
for the town's public health,  
safety and ecology. The  
committee's purpose includes  
informing residents about  
personal and property  
protection and implementing  
strategies to reduce incidences  
of Lyme and other tick-borne  
diseases.



For more information, go to

[www.town.medfield.net](http://www.town.medfield.net)

Town Services - Lyme Disease  
Study Committee

# Deer Population Management



Medfield  
Lyme Disease  
Study Committee



2016



## A properly managed deer herd benefits everybody.

Medfield's Lyme Disease Study Committee was formed by the Board of Selectmen in 2010. As part of its mission, the Committee organized a hunting program for the purpose of reducing Medfield's deer population. The town's deer population is estimated to be at least 4 - 5 times the number considered healthy for the herd, and the negative impacts are far reaching. Too many deer contribute significantly to the high tick population and the incidence of tick-borne diseases. A single deer can host hundreds of ticks. In addition, our forest is being stripped of the understory, destroying its capacity to renew itself as well as the habitat of a variety of small animals and birds. Deer-vehicle

collisions are common on our roads, creating a public safety concern. (Though it is too early to take credit, the number of deer-vehicle collisions in town has dropped significantly since the program began.) Also, property owners endure landscape damage from deer browsing. These factors, but in particular the public health threat, led to the organized hunting program.

Additional private properties can increase our program's effectiveness in culling the deer herd. Obtaining permission for parcels located throughout town would contribute to a more successful hunt. If interested in adding your property to our program, please contact Frank Perry at 617-413-3806.

## Q&A

### How safe is bow hunting?

In the history of bow hunting in Massachusetts, there has never been a non-hunter related accident. The nature of bow hunting requires taking shots at a range of 25 yards or less and clearly identifying the intended target as well as any potential obstacles. Archers in our program hunt only from elevated tree stands resulting in downward trajectory shots.

### Who will be hunting my property and how do I know they are qualified?

Archery hunters accepted into the town program must be experienced and must pass a proficiency test and interview as well as a background check by the police.

### Am I liable if someone gets hurt?

No, per MA law G.L.c.21, Sec 17C. (a) Any person having an interest in land...who lawfully permits the public to use such land for recreational...purposes without imposing a charge or fee therefor...shall not be liable for personal injuries or property damage sustained by such members of the public....