

***Suggested by-laws for a tri-community wildlife committee involve outlining the purpose, structure, and operational guidelines for the group.***

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## **BY-LAWS OF THE TRI-COMMUNITY WILDLIFE COMMITTEE**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

#### **Section 1: Name**

The name of the organization shall be the "Tri-Community Wildlife Committee" (hereafter referred to as "the Committee"), created by the City Councils of Douglas and Saugatuck and the board of trustees for Saugatuck Township.

#### **Section 2: Purpose**

The purpose of the Committee is to seek options and make recommendations to manage the overgrowth of deer and other wildlife within the jurisdictions of the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck. The Authority will discuss wildlife management strategies, particularly focusing on the hunting season time frames set by the State of Michigan for culling purposes and make recommendations to the respective councils and boards of each community.

### **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1: Composition**

The Committee shall consist of:

- Three (3) representatives, one from each of the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck. These representatives shall be selected by their respective councils or boards.
- Three (3) to four (4) citizens, selected based on their knowledge, interest, or expertise in wildlife management or related fields. These citizens shall be appointed by mutual agreement of the councils and boards of the three communities.

#### **Section 2: Term of Office**

- Representatives from the councils or boards shall serve a term of two (2) years, renewable upon the discretion of their respective councils or boards.
- Citizen members shall serve a term of two (2) years, with the possibility of reappointment.

#### **Section 3: Vacancies**

In the event of a vacancy, the respective council, board, or community shall appoint a new representative or citizen member to serve for the remainder of the term.

### **ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

### **Section 1: Officers**

The officers of the Committee shall include a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary.

### **Section 2: Election and Term of Officers**

Officers shall be elected by the members of the Committee at the first meeting of each calendar year. Officers shall serve a one-year term and may be re-elected for successive terms.

### **Section 3: Duties of Officers**

- **Chairperson:** Presides over all meetings, sets agendas, and represents the Committee in official communications.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Assists the Chairperson and presides over meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.
- **Secretary:** Records and maintains minutes of all meetings, handles correspondence, and keeps records of the Committee's activities.

## **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

### **Section 1: Regular Meetings**

The Committee shall hold regular meetings once a month (or as needed) at a time and place determined by the members.

### **Section 2: Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by a majority of the members as needed.

### **Section 3: Quorum**

A quorum for conducting business shall consist of a simple majority of the total members of the Committee.

### **Section 4: Voting**

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting.

## **ARTICLE V: RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS**

### **Section 1: Responsibilities**

The Committee shall:

- Discuss and evaluate the overgrowth of deer and other wildlife within the tri-community area.
- Develop and recommend wildlife management strategies, including potential culling's during hunting seasons as permitted by the State of Michigan.

- Engage with community members to gather input and provide education on wildlife management issues.
- Present recommendations to the councils and boards of the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck.

## **Section 2: Powers**

The Committee shall have the power to:

- Request and review data and reports related to wildlife populations and management.
- Collaborate with state and local wildlife management authorities.
- Make recommendations, but not enforce policies or regulations. Final decisions rest with the respective councils and boards of the participating communities.

## **ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1: Amendments**

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee members, if notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been given at least one meeting prior to the vote.

## **ARTICLE VII: ADOPTION**

These by-laws shall become effective upon adoption by a majority vote of the Committee members and approval by the councils and boards of the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck.

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This document provides a structure for the Committee's operations and decision-making processes, ensuring that the group functions effectively in managing local wildlife concerns.