

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

December 2020

1. On 11/23 Deputy Yeakel along with Chief Meixell located a baited hunting area adjacent to Authority Property. PA Game Commission was notified and investigated. According to Deputy Leaser he was informed by WCO Bentzoni located persons actively hunting over the bait and made an arrest.
2. Deputies investigated a complaint about a house trailer being placed on two lots that adjoin Authority Property along Kuhenbeaker Rd in Tunkhannock Twp. The Trailer was reported to have been placed on Authority Property by an individual wanting to start a rental campsite for people to hunt on Authority Property. A check of the location showed the trailer was not on Authority property but resting within 5-7 feet of the property line. No persons were present at this time.

A follow up with Tunkhannock Twp. Zoning, Kate Lambert showed that Camping is only authorized for 2 weeks on a lot of this nature. The Camper/ Tent must then be removed for 2 weeks then may return for an additional 2 weeks. After the second two week cycle camping is no longer authorized. During COVID the provisions have changed as now a Camp may be in place for 90 days at a time may be available up to a total of 6 months.

The zoning office knows the owner of the property in question and has had numerous dealing in the past. Zoning will keep in touch with the Authority PD about any other developments they may have with the individual.

3. Bear Season 11/21-11/24 with Sunday hunting for the first time. Hunter numbers for the first day were a lot lower than during years past. Penn Forest Rd/ Hatchery Rd had a combined total of 20 vehicles. Hell Hollow Rd and Smith Rd areas had a total of 14 vehicles. Hysie Gap Rd had 10 Vehicles. Remaining days all locations had a drastic drop in hunter numbers. Amish hunters had moved into the Penn Forest area near Weiser with a group 20 hunters to perform drives while hunting bear. Chief Meixell stated this could be an issue in the future with a local family that hunts with drives in the same area with just as a large group.
 4. According To PA Game Commission WCO's only 2 Bear were harvested from the Penn Forest and Wild Creek Properties. It is unknown if any Bear were harvested from the Tunkhannock Property.
 5. Deer Rifle season 11/28-12/12 with Sunday hunting on 12/29 participation is also low this year. More hunters were out the second Saturday than the first day. Hunters are reporting low harvest to deputies and not seeing deer. One hunter did report seeing between 8 and 16 deer each day he was out the first week of the season.
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6. The 3 days of Sunday hunting initiated this year has not seemed to cause any issues with non-hunters yet.
7. Jack Lesoine from the Chestnut Ridge Hunting Club has maintained a good working relationship with the Tunkhannock Trails Community. Jack had reported that the Snowshoe Hare research group is still driving a truck into the area during the firearms season. The group had initially reported they were stopping until after Firearms has ended. While speaking with Lesoine he had expressed a concern for Beavers causing issues on the Lease. I informed him that after the Holidays I may be able to get him some help.
8. Hunters reported to me that they had observed people come out of the Wild Creek Reservoir fencing along Penn Forest Rd. The persons were accessing the area via the drainage ditches that go under the fence. I did not observe anything to suggest this had occurred recently but it is a concern to check on in the future.
9. Maintenance located 2 trash bags that contained Deer carcasses. The Bags were located in the creek on Hell Hollow Rd that flows into the Penn Forest Reservoir. Deputies are alerted to keep an eye out for illegal dumping that can potentially contaminate the water.