

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

January 2021

1. Deputy Cooper caught a Michael Wassen, the Penn Forest Twp Volunteer Fire Company #2 Assistant Fire Chief, driving a UTV on Authority Land. PA Game Commission issued a citation to this individual.
2. On Dec 20 I made contact with a trapper named Scott Sauro at the Berger Cut Gate T-2. While speaking he had asked about people walking dogs in the area and I explained it is a popular location for families and their pets to come for a walk and that Snow Shoe Hare season starts on Saturday 12/26 and a great deal of Beagles will be covering the entire Tunkhannock area. This seemed odd so I pressed for a bit more information which Sauro stated while his leg-hold traps are legal and not intended to cause injury, he didn't like catching dogs as pet owners then destroy his traps. I told him it shouldn't be a problem if traps are placed 50 yards from any of the fire lanes. I later found that Sauro is known for trapping on trails and fire lanes and has recently caught a dog in the Wild Creek area. I will be looking forward to speaking with Sauro the next time I meet him. The PA Game Commission has had numerous complaints about Sauro catching dogs and are considering pulling his trapping license.
3. On Dec 20 I spoke with an Ashley Albarran and Marc Bradley at the Kuhenbeaker Rd property that is owned by a Kirk Bontempo which border Authority land. Ashley and Marc stated they are living in the camper which Chief Meixell and I had investigated last month. Apparently the two have until the end of December to remove the trailer. Neither party had Bontempo's contact information. I gave my name and the Authority phone number to Ashley in hopes she would be in contact with Bontempo.

On Dec 21 I spoke with Bontempo regarding the property and his intentions as well as Authority concerns for ATV traffic and dumping on our land. Bontempo stated the trailer is to be removed by December 31. Bontempo's intent is to use the site for tent camping throughout the year. This information was relayed to the Tunkhannock Twp Zoning Officer, Kate Lambert.

I and Chief Meixell then met with Norm Eberly who resides next door to the Bontempo property. We were able to observe corner markers in the area that suggests the camper is in fact on Authority land. Ms. Lambert provided Chief Meixell and myself a printout of the lot sizes and locations for that area of Kuhenbeaker Rd. I will follow up with this information and verify the camper is gone by Dec 31 or further action will be taken.

I met with Bontempo On Jan 4 at 1130 hours on Kuhenbeaker Rd. Bontempo explained the trailer will be removed by the end of January. Bontempo was then advised that we have located property markers showing a portion of the Trailer is on Authority

land. Bontempo was informed to have the trailer moved off authority land by January 31 or the Authority will be required to take further action against him.

4. Lehigh Valley Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count took place at the Reservoirs on 27 December. A pair of Trumpeter Swans were observed on the Penn Forest Reservoir, which is very uncommon for this area. We did not yet receive a full count of what the group observed that day.
5. The PA Game Commission brought in a large team for snowshoe study work after the recent snow fall. The team covered a large area and with the increased traffic damaged several fire lanes. Game Commission was contacted and will address this with their team to take measures preventing such damage in the future. The extent of the fire lane damage will be evaluated in spring.