

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

Jan 2022

1. Deer Season ended without any major issues. One minor problem occurred with parking near the logging area in Long Pond. Parking was not unlawful but the Logger needed assistance with making his turn onto Hysie Gap Rd.

2. I investigated a complaint of construction equipment on Authority land that borders our property that is leased by the Penn Forest Hunting Club. A check of the area found that a property owner was clearing a small wooded area on their own land. No work or equipment was on Authority property.

3. Since the end of deer firearms season the deer have begun to herd up. Sightings show them in large groups throughout the property. Eagle sightings are smaller in number this month. The regular birdwatchers, dog walkers, geocacher's and runners have continued to use the area.

4. The Christmas Bird Count did not occur on our property this year as no one had contacted us to make arrangements. I did speak to a birdwatcher in the Penn Forest area who takes part in the count. He informed me that the lead person who arranges access had left the group at the last minute. The count was then made with no one in the group contacting us. I gave him my card and said to call next year should they require our assistance.

5. Traps were located on fire lanes in the Penn Forest area. These fire lanes are commonly used by dog walkers, hikers, bird watchers and families that geocache. Traps were pulled and returned to the owner with instruction that trapping is not allowed on Bethlehem Authority fire lanes. The group was argumentative but when informed the property is not state land and others have lost trapping privileges over this type of activity they calmed down. They were informed what the Authority expects with trapping behavior.

6. Tunkhannock Twp Zoning Office called with a noise complaint about our logging activity claiming it starts at 5:00 a.m. Authority Officer investigated and found the noise to occur in the Indian Mountain Lake Community which is several miles from Authority Property. The Authority's timber contractor does not start work typically until after 8:00 a.m.