



Meeting: Village Board
Meeting Date: 03/25/2013
Agenda Item: #6b

Mission Statement

Delivering quality services in a courteous, cost-effective and efficient manner

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

REPORT TO: Burt R. McIntyre, President
Village Board of Trustees

REPORT FROM: Monica Hoff, Animal Control Officer

AGENDA ITEM: Review and discuss concerns regarding nuisance turkeys near Memorial Drive

ACTION REQUESTED: Ordinance Resolution Motion
 Receive/Discuss

POLICY ISSUE

Should the Village Board take any action to address concerns regarding nuisance turkeys in the area of Memorial Drive and Lenwood Avenue?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Village staff has received numerous calls, for the past several years, regarding turkeys in the Memorial Drive neighborhood and other village locations creating a nuisance situation. Tom turkeys are somewhat aggressive and many of the turkeys have lost their fear of humans and do not hesitate to congregate on the roofs of houses and cars. Feces accumulation has become a concern. Although many people object to the numbers of turkeys in the area, some people are reportedly feeding the birds in large amounts, including using buckets of corn.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

Animal control has advised individuals of various aversion techniques to discourage the birds' presence. However, given the numbers, this has been only marginally effective. In the past, the village has obtained nuisance permits from the DNR. However, these have only been used in the golf course area.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY VILLAGE BOARD

Village staff recommends the Village Board implement an ordinance (see sample in Attachment I) regarding feeding restrictions and explore abatement options (listed in Attachment II).

If the Village Board agrees with this action, staff will draft an ordinance for future approval and explore abatement options.

POLICY ALTERNATIVE(S)

The Village Board could take the following actions:

- Instruct staff to pursue abatement options.
- Put the item on a future agenda for official action.
- Table the item.
- Do nothing.

ATTACHED INFORMATION

- I. **Sample Ordinance**
- II. **Turkey Abatement Options**

ATTACHMENT I

SAMPLE ORDINANCE

SEC. 12.122. FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS PROHIBITED.

(a)Prohibition. No person shall feed or allow the feeding of wild animals as defined in Section 12.91 of this City Code, such as, but not limited to, raccoons, deer, turkeys, ducks and geese, within any area of the City of Bloomington. For the purpose of this Section, feeding shall mean provision of non-birdseed mixtures, grain, fruit, vegetables, hay, mineral salt or other edible material, either on the ground or at a height of less than five (5) feet above the ground. Living food sources, such as fruit trees and other live vegetation, shall not be considered as prohibited feeding.

(b)Exceptions. This prohibition shall not apply to veterinarians, city, county, state or federal officials who in the course of their duties have wild animals in their custody or under their management.



Village of Howard Animal Control

Turkey Abatement Options

The following options are available for consideration by the Village Board in response to citizen concerns.

Habitat Modification: Remove large food sources, specifically reduce large-scale feeding of wildlife. Currently people are reportedly putting out buckets of corn and feeding turkeys from their garages. **This is conditioning the birds to see houses as a food source.**

Exclusion: Fences and netting for small isolated areas (i.e. gardens). Fencing is the most effective way to protect certain plants and trees.

Aversion: Balloons, flags, loud noise making devices, dogs, squirt guns, etc. Some of these methods have been recommended to individual citizens who have called. These methods are effective but somewhat labor intensive, but can be deployed without special permission or injury to animals/people. Motion detection devices are on the market that attach to garden hoses to spray when activated.

Live capture: Difficult with birds (flight capability), labor intensive.

Repellants: Commercial repellants are somewhat effective but must be species specific and sometimes animals will tolerate them to obtain food.

Shooting: Hunters would be issued permits to hunt during regular turkey season in non-hunting areas of the village. If numbers taken are not sufficient DNR nuisance permits can be applied for to take additional birds outside of regular season. Although effective, **lethal methods require attention to safety issues in residential areas and may cause adverse reaction by some citizens. It would also require the establishment of a program to select individuals that would be allowed to hunt in the designated area and screen for hunting expertise to ensure safety of people and non-target species/pets.**

Current laws: No local ordinances found.

State Law: Feeding wild animals is allowed for certain species for non-hunting purposes:

1. Deer

Amount: No person may place or allow the placement of more than 2 gallons of feed material at any feeding site.

Placement: No person may place or allow the placement of:

- feed in a county in which baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited.

- more than 2 gallons of feed for each owner-occupied residence or business, regardless of property size.
- a deer feeding site more than 50 yards from an owner occupied residence or business.
- a deer feeding site within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
- a deer feeding site without the approval of the owner of the owner-occupied residence or business.
- feed at a deer feeding site that the person knows is being used by bear and elk. If the owner of the residence or business is notified by the department or otherwise becomes aware that bear or elk have been using a deer feeding site, the owner must discontinue feeding for a period of not less than 30 days.

Content: No person may place any bait or feed material for deer that:

- contains any animal part or animal by-product.
- is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish feed automatically, mechanically, or by gravity.

2. **Feeding other wild animals:**

No person may place, deposit, or allow the placement of any material to feed or attract other wild animals for non-hunting purposes including recreational and supplemental feeding, except as allowed below for feeding birds and small mammals:

3. **Feeding birds and small mammals:**

Material may be placed solely for the purpose of attracting and feeding wild birds and small mammals if:

- placed in bird feeding devices and structures at a sufficient height or design to prevent access by deer.
- the structures and devices are no further than 50 yards from a dwelling devoted to human occupancy.
- if deer, bear, or elk are utilizing bird feeding devices or structures, the devices or structures shall be enclosed or elevated higher to prevent access by the deer, bear, or elk.

Note: The placement of plain water for drinking or for birdbaths is allowed.

4. **Feeding animals by hand:** Feeding wild animals, other than deer, elk, or bear, by hand is not encouraged, but is allowed if:

- feed is placed not more than 30 feet away from the person feeding.
- the person feeding cleans up the unconsumed feed before moving a distance greater than 30 feet from the deposited feed.

5. **Natural Vegetation and Plantings:** Feed that is deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural or gardening practices, as well as standing crops planted and left as wildlife food plots, is not considered feeding for the purposes of these regulations, and is allowed statewide.

Staff recommendations:

Establish local guidelines for problem areas including location and type of bird feeders with quantity of feed allowed. Prohibit the feeding of animals directly from homes or garages. Bird feeders should be of the type provided for song birds and placed some distance from the houses. Investigate residential hunting program in anticipation of up-coming turkey season.