

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Hearing Officer: Catherine Sparks, Assistant Director for Natural Resources

RIDEM Staff Present: Joseph LoBianco, Senior Legal Counsel
Leland Mello, Supervising Wildlife Biologist
Charlie Brown, Wildlife Biologist
Ashley Schipritt, Fiscal Management Officer

The public hearing for the Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists and Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation was held on November 7, 2018 at 11:30AM in Conference Room A, 4th Floor, DEM Foundry Building, 235 Promenade Street, Providence. There were no members from the public attended the hearing.

The hearing was called to order at 11:40 AM by Assistant Director for Natural Resources Catherine Sparks.

C. Sparks – Assistant Director for Natural Resources, (CS): The hearing began with directions on how the hearing would be conducted and encouraged participants to sign up for testimony. CS introduced herself and announced she was there to officiate on behalf of Janet L. Coit, Director of DEM.

This hearing is being conducted as to the Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation under the authority of Chapters 42-17.1, 42-17.6; R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 20-1-4, 20-1-18, 20-1-22, 20-37-3 and pursuant to the procedural requirements of Chapter 42-35, "Administrative Procedures" of Rhode Island 1956, as amended.

And as to the Rules & Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialist under the authority of R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 20-1-18; Chapters 42-17.1 and pursuant to the procedural requirements of Chapter 42-35, " Administrative Procedures " of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

In accordance with the above referenced requirements, a public notice of this hearing was posted on the Secretary of State and DEM computer websites on October 18, 2018, with a copy of the notarized affidavit of such posting attached to the record of this proceeding as **Exhibit #1** and **Exhibit #2** for each of these hearings.

For each of these regulatory proceedings, pursuant to the requirements of Section 42-35-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, DEM has made the following determinations. DEM has complied with the requirements of Section § 42-35.1-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws. THE DEM has provided prior notice to the Governor's Office and DOA the proposed promulgation of these Rules & Regulations and none of these offices has notified DEM that it has identified any of these proposed regulations as one that may have a significant adverse impact on small businesses. Despite the above, DEM specifically requests comments on the proposals as to how the proposed regulations can be changed so that the adverse economic impact(s) can be minimized or eliminated.

The procedure for the public comment hearing is as follows:

1. Person who wish to speak will register at the table at the rear of the room.
2. Speakers will be called in the order of registration.
3. Five (5) minutes was allowed for a presentation unless the number of speakers allowed for additional time.
4. When your name is called come to the podium and identify yourself by name and affiliation, if any. I would add any time you speak you should identify yourself by name for the purpose of the recording.
5. Make your presentation and then provide a written copy of your statement for the written record if one is available.
6. After all persons wishing to speak have had the opportunity to comment, the hearing will be closed.

The Public Hearing comment period will close as of 4pm on Friday, November 16, 2018.

After the time has elapsed for the submission of written commentary has been closed the Department has three (3) options:

1. File the rules and regulations with the Secretary of State as is;
2. File the rules and regulations with minor changes;
3. Make additional amendments to the rules and regulations and hold a new public hearing.

If filed, the amended rules and regulations become effective twenty (20) days after filing and have the effect of law.

Public Hearing for Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation opened at 11:44am.

No one from the public at the hearing.

Public Hearing for Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists opened at 11:45am.

No one from the public at the hearing.

CS states we will now enumerate all exhibits and received comments for the public record.

Exhibit 1: Affidavit of Public Posting, Public Notice.

Exhibit 2: copy of Proposed Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rules and Regulations Governing Nuisance Wildlife Control Specialists.

Public Hearing closed at 11:46am.

No comments from the public were received during the open comment period.