

# Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

## Braintree Conservation Commission

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### TOWN OF BRAINTREE CONSERVATION COMMISSION DRAFT HUNTING REGULATIONS 2018 PILOT PROGRAM September 19, 2018

Pursuant to the Conservation Commission's June, 2009 Rules and Regulations for Conservation land, the Commission incorporates the following policy as Pilot Project for the 2018 season only. Limited bow-hunting of deer at South St. Conservation Area and Cranberry Pond Area shall be permitted by a Braintree Conservation Area Hunting Permit only (hereinafter referred to as permit or permits).

Based on available land area within the state mandated setback areas and parking limitations, not more than three (3) permits for Cranberry Pond Area and one (1) permit for South St. Area may be issued by the Commission.

#### I. Permit Requirements

- a. Applications shall be accepted from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup> only.
- b. All hunters seeking a permit must provide documentation of a current Massachusetts state hunting license; a valid bow-hunting education certificate and must pass an annual proficiency test administered by an individual approved and appointed by the Braintree Conservation Commission to administer said test.
- c. The Braintree Conservation Commission reserves the right to revoke a permit at any time for failure to adhere to the policy.
- d. Braintree residents shall have priority in obtaining a permit.
- e. Permits shall be awarded on a lottery system with Braintree Resident having priority. Applications from Braintree residents shall be drawn first. If permits remain, non-residents will be entered.

## II. Hunting Requirements

- a. Only holders of a permit may hunt on conservation land in Braintree.
- b. The permit is valid for bow-hunting only. No firearms of any kind are allowed.
- c. Permit holders must obey all current Massachusetts state deer hunting regulations, including setbacks and date and time restrictions.
- d. All permit holders must have their permit visibly displayed on their person at all times while hunting on conservation land.
- e. Hunting is allowed only from an elevated tree stand. Steps or ladders must be tagged with the permit number and may be in place only from the day prior to and the day after each hunting period (see schedule below).
- f. In addition to the state setback from dwellings and roads, hunting is not permitted within 100 feet of any marked trails.
- g. Conservation staff will provide permit holders with a map showing the required setbacks from dwellings, roads, and trails, as well as the location of wetlands. Permit holders shall provide a marked up copy of this map indicating their stand location to Conservation Staff before each hunting period.
- h. Entrails must not be left within 100 feet of trails or wetlands.
- i. During hunting period, holders of a permit may access Conservation Areas from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.
- j. Harvested deer must be reported to the Conservation Department within 36 hours.
- k. Harvested deer must be removed by hand without damage to the surrounding area.
- l. Injured deer must be reported to the Town and the Environmental Police.
- m. Hunters shall avoid disturbance to wetlands, tree stands may not be located in wetlands.

## III. Hunting Schedule

- a. Hunting shall be limited to the following days: Friday, November 16, Saturday, November 17, Friday, December 14, Saturday, December 15
- b. Tree stands may be placed no earlier than Thursday, November 15 and removed by Sunday, November 18 for the November dates and placed no earlier than Thursday, December 13 and removed by Sunday, December 16 for the December dates.

## IV. Wildlife cameras

- a. Wildlife cameras may be installed by holders of permits only and must be tagged with the permit number. Unpermitted or unidentified cameras will be removed. Cameras shall not be located along trails.

## V. Public Safety

- a. The main entrances to the Conservation Areas will be marked with signage indicating that hunting is permitted on the property on the above-noted days.

Hunters are encouraged to provide two hours per year of community service (coordinated with Conservation Staff) to maintain conservation land, including removing illegal tree stands, maintaining trails or other projects approved by Conservation Staff.