

(Writer's Address and Date
here)

Dear Neighbor,

Under Mass. law and as a courtesy I am requesting your permission to allow a hunter to work my property during this year's Bow Hunting season. The purpose of the hunt is to discourage deer from crossing the land and dropping Lyme Disease-infected "Deer Ticks", which *each animal carries in the hundreds*.

It has been well documented by the Dover Board of Health (BOH) that Lyme Disease is a major problem in town, and only through a concerted effort over many years will we be able to reverse its spread. It has been determined that Deer are the predominant carriers of the ticks which spread the disease by depositing them as the animals wander through our yards. In addition, as the deer herd has been allowed to expand to overpopulation the herds are roaming beyond their woodland habitats seeking plants and shrubs in our backyards to avoid starvation. The result is a *25% elimination of native species in the area*. Predators such as *coyotes are increasing in numbers*, (also threatening our pets and children), though not to the point of decreasing the deer population. Please see the "doverma.org/BOH." website for more information

Personally, I am reluctant to have to deal with the problem in this way, but *without efforts to cull the superabundance of deer, our families will continue to be threatened* by this insidious disease to the point where we will fear even walking on it. Currently the Town fathers in concert with conservation landholders and the Mass. Wildlife Department conduct a bow hunt annually on a limited number of public acres. The harvested numbers, however, don't even approach those tabulated in automobile-deer encounters.

Bow hunting takes place from a tree stand well above the ground in an area which will prevent the arrow from traveling more than 75 feet, well inside my property line. Only hunters authorized by the careful scrutiny of Dover's Lyme Disease committee, the arm of the BOH in charge of reducing Lyme. Mass. law requires notification of property owners whose residences are within 500 feet of the stand, regardless of weapon. As arrows travel a far shorter distance than a bullet the regulation is excessive, and there will be no danger to you or your property. In any case Safety is the first priority.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the hunt please contact me or those involved with Lyme Disease in town. Numbers listed below.

Sincerely Yours,

Permission to Hunt

_____ (printed name) _____ (Date)

_____ (Property address)

_____ (Email) _____ (Phone)

As the owner of the property listed below I authorize a Dover Board of Health Lyme Disease Committee-approved bow hunter to hunt on the property of this letter's signatory during this year's Massachusetts Bow Hunting Season.

_____ (Sig.)

_____ (Please Print Name)

_____ (Street Address)

Contact for more information:

Mass. Wildlife Website
Dover Website
LDC Hunter Rep.
Chmn of LDC
Dover Police Chief