



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Over the weekend three notable separate incidents involving bears occurred in town.

A bear entered a resident's three season area of a home on Bushy Hill Road in an attempt to access some bird seed. Police arrived on scene and discovered that the bear was able to enter the three season room through a closed screen door. The bear was able to be startled away, but damaged a window as it left the room. DEEP and Simsbury Police responded to this incident.

Another bear entered a three season area of a home on Ox Yoke Drive for bird seed. DEEP responded to this incident as well. The bear was able to be startled away and it was euthanized by DEEP. The bear was estimated to weigh between 500 and 600 pounds.

Another incident occurred in the McLean Game Refuge near the Granby border when a resident was walking with three dogs and a bear came out of the woods and attacked one dog. Unfortunately, the handler of the dogs was bitten in the leg by the bear while trying to separate the bear from the dog. One dog was treated by a local veterinarian and the resident was treated and has been released. During this encounter one dog escaped and ran off but has since been located safely. Simsbury Police are assisting DEEP with this incident. For more information about this incident please watch a video from the Simsbury Police Department by clicking [HERE](#).

"These incidents are deeply unsettling," said First Selectman Eric Wellman. "As public officials, we have no higher responsibility than ensuring public safety. That's why I'm supportive of the ordinance to prohibit the intentional feeding of wildlife the Board of Selectmen is considering at our meeting on July 13."

Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham agrees. "Prohibiting the intentional feeding of wildlife is a start, but it doesn't solve the root of the problem," Askham said. "Wildlife policy is driven at the state level so I call on our legislators to equip DEEP with the resources required to protect the safety of our residents."

DEEP has a website to report bear sightings to and it is strongly encouraged to report any bear sighting you have so the most up to date information is available to DEEP and other interested parties. You can report bear sightings by clicking [HERE](#).

Please review some of the following tips for keeping bears away from your garbage and home:

- Wait until the morning of trash collection to bring your trash and recycle barrels curbside.
- Leave your trash and recycle barrels secured in a garage, shed or out building to prevent bears from gaining access.

- Regularly wash your trash barrel to clean out the scent of food.
- Do not add meat or sweets to your compost piles.
- Do not leave pet food outside your house.

At the July 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting, there will be a public hearing on the proposed Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife. If you would like to submit a comment to be read into the public hearing please email [ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov). The proposed ordinance can be found by clicking [HERE](#).