

TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION ISSUE  
ARTICLES AND PETITIONS

Special Town Meeting - August 24, 2011

*Article 2. To see if the Town shall support and establish a wildlife management plan with the goal of reducing the deer population to 10 deer per square mile and maintaining the population at that level, in order to reduce the incidence of Tick Borne Disease. The plan will be developed by a committee of local residents appointed by the Selectmen. The Selectmen will take said plan and any subsequent plans to the voters for approval before implementation.*

The article was approved by a paper ballot vote 100-28.

Town Meeting - May 12, 2012

May 12 Town Meeting. *Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Deer Reduction Committee's plan to reduce the deer population to 10 per square mile by means of a Special Hunt.* In response to questions at the 4/26 Information Meeting, Fred Thomas read a statement clarifying the DRC budget and measures to be taken in case of a serious accident during the Special Hunt. Warrant approved by voice vote (moderator Marc Schnur elected not to have a paper vote, regretted by the DRC).

Special Town Meeting - June 10, 2013

*Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to suspend the Special Deer Hunt previously approved at the May 12, 2102 Annual Town Meeting.* An amendment to add "until Town meeting 2014" was voted down 74 to 60. Then there was a vote on the original amendment; it was voted down 97 to 43.

*Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to expand the date of the Special Deer Hunt previously approved at the May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting to the first Monday after Thanksgiving through the end of February, and to allow the use of rifles during the same.* An amendment was made eliminating the last phrase, "and to allow the use of rifles during the same." That passed 110-28. The article was further amended to read "...expand the date of the Special Deer Hunt previously approved at the May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting to the first Monday after the extended archery season through the end of February." That passed 83-37.

Petition submitted by Concerned Citizens of Islesboro to the Selectmen - July 30, 2014:

In the light of the **public health emergency** facing the town, with over 5% of all reported cases of Lyme disease in the entire state having been diagnosed on Islesboro, and in light of an

increasing deer population: We, the undersigned, being registered Voters of the Town of Islesboro, request the municipal officers to place the following article before the voters for their consideration: *To see if the Town will vote to cancel the Special Deer Hunt scheduled for December 2014-February 2015, approved at a Special Town Meeting on June 10, 2013, and approve replacing it with a hunt organized by professional sharpshooters in the winter of 2015 in order to rapidly reduce the deer population to a density of 10 per square mile or less. The cost of the hunt will be underwritten with private funds. All meat from the deer hunt will be available for distribution to the community.*

#### Special Town Meeting - September 30, 2014

Article 2. *To see if the Town will vote to cancel the Special Deer Hunt scheduled for December 2014-February 2015, approved at a Special Town Meeting on June 10, 2013, and approve replacing it with a hunt organized by professional sharpshooters in the winter of 2015 in order to rapidly reduce the deer population to a density of 10 per square mile or less. The cost of the hunt will be underwritten with private funds. All meat from the deer hunt will be available for distribution to the community.* The article was rejected by a paper ballot vote 148-87.

#### Special Town Meeting - June 11, 2015

Article 2. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize a three year Special Deer Hunt to be conducted from November 2, 2015 through January 30, 2016; November 7, 2016 through January 31, 2017; and November 6, 2017 through January 31, 2018 (i.e., with some overlap with the Expanded Archery season on Islesboro) on such terms and conditions as recommended to the Board of Selectmen by the Deer Reduction Committee; subject to the approval of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; and subject to an annual review by the Board of Selectmen.* The article was rejected by a paper ballot vote, 35 yes, 36 no.

Article 3. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize a three year Special Deer Hunt to be conducted from December 14, 2015 through February 29, 2016; December 12, 2016 through February 28, 2017; and December 11, 2017 through February 28, 2018 (i.e. without any overlap with the Expanded Archery season on Islesboro) on such terms and conditions as recommended to the Board of Selectmen by the Deer Reduction Committee; subject to the approval of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; and subject to an annual review by the Board of Selectmen.* The article was approved by a paper ballot vote - 45 yes, 27 no.

#### Special Town Meeting - February 10, 2016.

Article 2. *To see if the Town will vote to request the State Legislature to allow the Town of Islesboro to participate in the Maine State Firearms seasons of 2016, 2017, and 2018, and back to bow hunting only thereafter.* 122 votes - 41 yes, 81 no. As the article was turned down, a third article, *Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Islesboro Deer Hunting Ordinance" be enacted?*, being moot, was rejected by a show of hands.

Updated 4/18/16