

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, April 18, 2013, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Carol Macaulay (by phone), Gilbert Rivera, Fred Thomas (chair), William Tilden

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Laura Houle, Don Johnson, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Scott Sienkiewicz

Fred Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes, meeting of March 19, 2013. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Review of report to the Board of Selectmen on March 27, 2013. Pete Anderson said that as agreed at the Selectmen's meeting of March 13th, he and Linda Gillies confirmed what the DRC's process going forward will be: there will be an information meeting on April 25th and a vote at a Special Town Meeting on June 10th.

Discussion of modifications to possible Special Hunt. Fred said that the DRC should decide on its recommendations for changes to the Special Hunt in the event that that the vote on June 10th is in favor of a hunt in 2013. At past DRC meetings the committee has discussed various options: approval of rifle use with landowner permission, extending the Special Hunt back into the end of the extended archery season and forward into the winter months, suspending the archery season on Islesboro altogether, and baiting by hunters participating in the Special Hunt. Keel Kemper has told us that MDIF&W will not permit suspending the archery season on Islesboro in order to expand the Special Hunt or baiting by hunters during the hunt.

Discussion followed:

- Babe Hatch asked if committee members had a sense of what people in the community thought about issues relating to the Special Hunt. Philo said he had spoken with one person about the possible changes and to no one about rifles. Gil Rivera said he had spoken to many people who thought the cost of sharpshooting would be too high. Bill Tilden felt that making a change now was too fast and that it was going to be difficult for the community to decide to suspend the Special Hunt at this point. Fred said that the decisions would be up to the Town.
- Philo said he was disappointed in the number of deer taken during the Special Hunt; Babe said he was impressed. Philo suggested that before the information meeting it would be helpful if MDIF&W could give us a better sense of the number of deer that should be taken annually to reduce the deer herd.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: If at the Special Town Meeting to be held on June 10, 2013 the Town votes to continue with the Special Hunt in 2013, the Deer Reduction Committee recommends that there be a second vote to approve:

- the use of rifles with landowner permission
- expanding the season to include from the first Monday after Thanksgiving through February

The motion was seconded and carried by a vote of 7-2.

Discussion of plans for the April 25, 2013 information meeting. The committee reviewed the “script” for the meeting, previously circulated.

- Philo suggested that as the committee is divided, a part of the presentation should include the opportunity for DRC members to voice their individual views about the proposed changes to the deer reduction plan. Linda will make this change.
- Philo suggested that it would be helpful to have an estimation of the annual cost of Lyme disease treatment on the island. Linda said she would contact the Health Center.
- Linda showed an example of the information “packet” that would be made available to people attending the meeting (committee members have seen each document previously). Babe said that each committee member should receive the complete packet in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that Linda will have the material printed on Monday and that committee members can pick up their copies at the Town Office front desk as of Tuesday morning. She will also include updated versions of the “script” for the meeting.

New business/old business. Fred said that the DRC should ensure with the Town Office that the vote on June 10th will be in the form of a written ballot.

Next meeting. It was decided that the next DRC meeting will be on Thursday, May 2nd, a week after the information meeting.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up:

- Contact MDIF&W about the number of deer that should be taken annually to reduce the deer herd. (LG)
- Contact Health Center about the annual cost of Lyme disease treatment. (LG)
- Prepare “packets” for DRC members, who can pick them up as of the morning of Tuesday, April 22nd. Each packet will have the committee member’s name on it. (LG)