

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, January 2, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Gilbert Rivera, Scott Sienkiewicz, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Fred Thomas (chair)

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Don Johnson, Carol Macaulay, William Tilden

Fred Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of December 15, 2011. Rachel Rolerson-Smith made a correction. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

Follow-up from 12/15/11 Meeting.

- *IF&W.* In an email of December 19th to Jim Connolly Linda asked: “Given the challenge ahead, would IF&W be open to consider the possibility that island hunters would receive IF&W-approved training and be certified in some sharpshooter techniques, specifically pre-baiting and baiting, so that these techniques could be used during the Islesboro special hunt?” Jim’s response of December 22nd was, “At this point in time the Department would not support the use of those techniques for this hunt. We would like to see maximum participation in hunts with the traditional rules in place.” Fred Thomas said that IF&W’s bottom line is to have regular hunting and increased numbers of hunters on Islesboro. Scott said that IF&W should issue depredation permits, which were mentioned at the December 14th meeting.
- *Health Center.* Linda reported that the Health Center stands ready to mount a Lyme disease prevention program in spring/summer 2012; Gordon Murphy, PA-C, will take the lead.
- *Butchering.* Linda reported that Jeff McLaughlin at Thin Blue Line in Rockland, which butchers 400 deer per year, would be interested in processing deer taken during an Islesboro Special Hunt. As they do not have a mobile refrigerated vehicle, he suggested that a Town vehicle could bring deer to the mainland. Their charge for processing, including special cuts, would be \$60 per deer. Babe Hatch said it would be best if the butchering could be done by someone on the island and suggested that the DRC put the word out about the proposed project to see if there was interest locally. Babe will call Scott Brown. Fred said that packaging was important.
- *Database for Survey Results.* Pete Anderson reported that Town Assessor Vern Ziegler will see that the results from the survey are tabulated into a database. This will be done through the use of labels with a property ID number that will be attached to each survey. Aerial Survey and Photo, Inc. in Norridgewock, ME will transfer color-coded information about where hunting will be permitted onto maps of Islesboro and 700 Acre Island. The cost of the map work will be \$600, plus \$20 a piece for hardcopy maps.

Drafts of Interim Report, Survey and Survey Cover Letter. The committee reviewed previously-circulated drafts of the Interim Report, to be mailed on January 12th and the property owner survey and cover letter, to be mailed on January 19th. Philo Hutcheson questioned the value of the survey, asking how hunters can be stopped from hunting on a property that is not posted. Fred responded that just as in the regular extended archery season, property owners will have absolute control of whether hunting is allowed on their land and what hunting methods will be permitted. Pete said that the information requested in the survey was mandated by IF&W as part of their review process for Islesboro's deer reduction proposal.

Scott Sienkiewicz said that he would modify the chart that he and Aaron had prepared for the back of the survey cover letter showing the trajectories of bows, shotguns and rifles so that it would be clear in black and white.

After committee members made a number of changes to the drafts,

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the Interim Report, survey and cover letter were unanimously approved as amended.

Sub-committee – Hunter Safety. Philo Hutcheson, who will head the sub-committee's hunter safety component, discussed IF&W guidelines and general criteria for approval as hunters in the Special Hunt:

- Islesboro residents only. An estimated 50 hunters could want to participate.
- Must have big game firearms hunting license.
- Must pass a 90-minute hunter safety review course, including property owners.
- Must show competency on range w/chosen firearm (in good working order), 3 range times.
- Must wear badge provided by DRC; stickers for vehicles.

The following questions require further discussion:

- How to define residents (kids away at school, summer residents here at Christmas, etc.)?
- Who to enforce the above?
- Must anyone who meets the criteria be given a permit?
- Will IF&W issue deer tags?

Philo suggested that Babe Hatch, who has been most helpful with hunter safety instruction in the past, be enlisted to assist with hunter safety for the Special Hunt. Babe said he would think about it.

Babe said the problem is going to be hunters going onto properties other than those for which they have access permission. Linda said the maps provided by the Town should help to orient hunters.

Scott asked if a person who has not gone through the DRC sub-committee's process is found hunting during the Special Hunt, would that person be "hunting out of season" and subject to a fine? Linda will contact IF&W with this question.

Fred suggested that before the Special Hunt participating hunters should come to a group meeting to hear about the regulations and guidelines for the hunt.

Linda asked if the proposed December date for the Special Hunt would interfere with the gathering of holiday greens by island residents. Answer: the hunt will most likely begin on December 17th, after most greens have been gathered.

Islesboro Island News Coverage. Gil Rivera said that IIN should cover DRC activities and suggested that Maggy Aston attend the committee meetings. Linda will contact Maggy.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be on Thursday, January 26th at 4:30 in the Town Office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW-UP

- Contact Scott Brown about butchering. (PH, Jr.)
- Modify weapon trajectory chart. (SS)
- Contact IF&W about “hunting out of season” question. (LG)
- Contact Maggy Aston about IIN coverage. (LG)

1/4/12