

TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, March 8, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson (Acting Chair), Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Don Johnson, Carol Macaulay (by telephone), Gilbert Rivera, Scott Sienkiewicz, William Tilden

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Fred Thomas

By invitation: Vernon Ziegler, Town Assessor

Pete Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of February 23, 2012. Pete pointed out a mistaken date in the heading. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

Survey Results. Vern Ziegler presented an updated spreadsheet and maps based on new information that had come in since the DRC meeting of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. As of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 59% of property owners to whom the survey was sent have responded. Survey results indicate that 542 parcels comprising 4,371 acres would be open to hunting during the Special Hunt. This represents 52% of the Town's total land (8,445 acres).

- o Archery only would be allowed on 132 parcels comprising 778 acres.
- o Shotgun only would be allowed on 21 parcels comprising 234 acres.
- o Archery and shotgun would be allowed on 389 parcels comprising 3,350 acres.

Vern reiterated that the survey results are somewhat fractured because: 1) not all respondents answered every question 2) several owners of large properties indicated that their properties would not be open to hunting during the Special Hunt but then specified that specific individuals could hunt there during that time 3) the Town expects to receive more completed surveys.

Vern said he would prepare a definitive map for the DRC meeting public hearing on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Committee members set Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for receiving completed surveys.

The committee gave a hearty vote of thanks to Vern for his good work on the survey results.

DRC Request to MDIF&W. The committee reviewed and made a few minor changes to the latest draft of the request, previously circulated.

Linda said she was concerned about the committee's decision to hold the proposed hunt from December 10-29, which includes a good part of Christmas week. She had heard from several community members that while they approved of the hunt in principle, they would vote against it if it extended beyond December 22<sup>nd</sup>, when seasonal residents come for the holidays and many people engage in outdoor activities. She circulated three different options for the hunt's time

frame and suggested that perhaps the DRC could ask MDIF&W if Sunday hunting could be allowed. Carol Macaulay said she shared the same view and was concerned that support from services such as law enforcement and medical emergency services would not be available during the holidays. Committee members responded that,

- Hunters would need the full 18 days to harvest as many deer as possible.
- Some hunters would be off from work during the holidays and thus available to hunt.
- Some seasonal residents who come for the holidays may want to hunt.
- Landowners would be at liberty to specify if they did not want hunting on their properties during specific days.
- Emergency safety and medical services operate on a 365-day a year basis. T
- The community will be well informed about where hunting will take place.
- Given MDIF&W's negative response to previous requests for Sunday hunting, it is most unlikely that they would allow it for Islesboro's Special Hunt.

Linda said that while she accepted these points, she encouraged the committee to be sensitive to the community's concerns about the timing of the Special Hunt.

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee accepts the request to the Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife as amended.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Planning for Public Hearing, April 26, 2012. It was agreed that the DRC's presentation should be carefully planned and scripted (perhaps using Powerpoint). Points to be included are:

- Landowners have the final say about who hunts on their property and when.
- The Special Hunt is outside of normal hunting regulations. The wording in the present regulations will not be changed.
- The map will serve as a guide; again, the landowners make the final determinations.
- An explanation of the Town-funded tagging process.
- An explanation of the butchering process, which would be financed by the Town as compensation for participating in the deer reduction, which is a "job," not recreation. Anyone who wishes to do his/her own butchering would be free to do so. Meat not wanted by hunters would be given to the needy.
- An explanation of the Health Center's Lyme disease prevention program in summer 2012. Bill Tilden suggested that the Fire Department consider burning fields as a prevention method.

It was agreed that the committee should get the word out about the meeting through an announcement in the Islesboro Island News and the Town calendar for April. Maggy Aston said that she would be glad to include the information in the March/April issue of IIN; the deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Linda will prepare these announcements.

Linda will prepare a draft outline for the hearing, to be considered at the DRC's March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22 at 4:30 in the Town Office. In Fred's absence, Pete will chair the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Prepare announcements of April 26<sup>th</sup> hearing for IIN and Town calendar. (LG)
- Prepare outline of April 26<sup>th</sup> hearing presentation for review at 3/22 meeting. (LG)

3/14/12