

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, April 5, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

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

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Don Johnson

Fred Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. He thanked Pete Anderson for doing a great job filling in as chair while he was away.

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of March 22, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

MDIF&W's Advisory Council meeting, Augusta, March 29, 2012. Pete Anderson and Carol Macaulay attended the meeting. Pete reported that Keel Kemper presented Islesboro's request to the Advisory Council (AC). AC members made three primary points:

- Off-island hunters should participate in the Special Hunt, including veterans and youth. Keel explained that Islesboro allows unlimited hunters during the expanded archery season; the Special Hunt is a management tool, rather than a recreational hunt. The community, which has not allowed deer hunting with guns for many years, wants to conduct the Special Hunt in a meaningful, safe way and is more comfortable with island hunters.
- Islesboro should make an effort to open up as much land as possible. Keel pointed out that as a result of the DRC survey, available land increased from 48% of total acreage to 53.4%.
- The DRC should have a more detailed long-range plan for deer management on Islesboro. Keel suggested that there should be a deer count in March 2015, after the third Special Hunt, followed by an assessment and strategy adjustment if necessary.

Linda Gillies will modify the request to MDIF&W to clarify/strengthen these points and will re-submit it to Keel Kemper.

The AC concluded that the Islesboro request is probably headed in the right direction. It will be considered at three more AC meetings held approximately a month apart. The first is scheduled for May 24th in Presque Isle. The second and third meetings have yet to be scheduled. The AC will make its final decision at the third meeting.

Fred thanked Pete and Carol for attending the meeting.

Conference call of April 4, 2012 with Keel Kemper and Kendall Marden. Keel Kemper requested the conference call to review points made at the AC meeting and comments he had heard afterward. Fred, Pete, Carol and Linda participated in the call. Fred summarized points covered in the phone conversation, and committee members commented:

- Thanks to Keel's email exchange with Pete Anderson, which clarified MDIF&W policy, the rumor that the agency has brought coyotes to the island has been stopped.
- Although the AC would like to open Islesboro's Special Hunt to more hunters, Keel has made the point that off-island hunters can hunt here during the 3-month extended archery season. Scott Sienkiewicz said that Islesboro shouldn't ever be pressured to have off-island hunters during the Special Hunt.
- As a result of the survey, more land has been made available to hunting than in the past. Even if they didn't respond, landowners have absolute control.
- The Special Hunt will be a task, not fun.
- The AC doesn't want to see the Special Hunt "in perpetuity." The DRC's request should be more specific about the long-range, including a count after three years and then a re-assessment. Philo Hutcheson said that changes to the DRC strategy would have to have the approval of MDIF&W and the Islesboro voters. Bill Tilden said that there might not be a lot of change after three years.
- The use of sharpshooters or sharpshooting techniques after three years is a possibility.
- Slugs and buckshot may be used with shotguns.
- Because the Selectmen have eliminated funding for a tagging station near the ferry during the regular season, hunters coming from off-island should be encouraged to help with Islesboro's deer management by having deer tagged on the island. DRC should put up signs to this effect along the roads and have brochures available for distribution at the ferry. As Rachel Rolerson-Smith is planning to re-open her tagging station, there will be two stations on Islesboro. Rachel said that she could go to the ferry dock to tag deer taken on 700 Acre Island.

Planning for Information Meeting, April 26, 2012. The committee reviewed the second draft of the Powerpoint presentation. Several committee members were assigned to take sections of the presentation at the meeting. Fred said that Keel Kemper and Kendall Marden plan to attend; Keel, who will speak about State regulations, violations and enforcement, prefers not to go by the "script." During discussion, the following points were made:

- Babe Hatch and Philo Hutcheson asked why they had not been told that crossbows were going to be allowed in the Special Hunt. Linda said Keel Kemper had suggested adding them to the MDIF&W request, and the change was included in the final draft, which had been circulated to the committee. However she neglected to mention the change when the committee reviewed the draft at the 3/22/12 meeting. She apologized for this mistake and encouraged all committee members to tell her if they did not feel fully informed at every step of the DRC's way.
- In an effort to make as much deer meat as possible available to island residents, Scott suggested that a list of hunters participating in the Special Hunt be made available to the community. Residents can contact hunters directly about the possibility of obtaining meat through them. Moon's Wild Game Processing will grind any meat not wanted by Islesboro residents and distribute it through the State-funded Hunters for the Hungry program.

- DRC will need to set up a good system for registering deer taken so that it is clear who has killed what animal and what the butchering requirements are. Scott might be available to help with this.
- DRC will also have to set up a system for transporting deer to Moon's in Waldoboro. Babe said that he might be available to help with this.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19 at 4:30 in the Town office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Modify request to MDIF&W and resubmit. (LG)
- Update and distribute Powerpoint presentation. (LG)

4/9/12