

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, May 17, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

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

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

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of May 3, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Review of Town Meeting of May 12, 2012. There was consensus that the meeting had gone well. Babe Hatch said there should have been a written ballot; several others agreed.

Next MDIF&W Advisory Committee Meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Princeton Rod and Gun Club, Princeton, ME. Pete Anderson asked if a committee member should make an opening statement at the meeting. Points that could be included are:

- The Islesboro extended archery season is open to all and we welcome everyone. Many off-island hunters come.
- As a result of the deer reduction effort, more land will be open during the extended archery season.
- Despite a vigorous extended archery season, there is no way that archery will get the deer down to 10 per square mile.

Linda Gillies will check with Keel Kemper about the advisability of such a statement. Other questions for Keel are:

- Can he give us information about John Boland, who will lead the discussion of the DRC request?
- Is it correct that at the Step 1 meeting the AC will come up with questions for DRC committee members to answer at the Step 2 meeting. Then at the Step 3 meeting the decision will be made (DRC members will not speak).
- Would the AC would like to hold one of its meetings on Islesboro? Babe said he thought the Sporting Club would be glad to host the group; Andrew Coombs might even serve one of his excellent meals.

Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson, Carol Macaulay and Linda said they expected to attend the meeting. As it has been scheduled for 1 pm, they can take an early boat and then return on Quicksilver that evening.

Philo Hutcheson noted that Andrea Erskine, a long-time MDIF&W staff member who will attend the meeting, is now Deputy Commissioner. In the past he has found her to be helpful and agreeable.

Linda circulated a letter to MDIF&W Commissioner Chandler E. Woodcock from State Epidemiologist Stephen Sears, MD, MPH, supporting the DRC plan. The letter was obtained through the help of Dr. Peter Rand of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory, who serves on the Maine Center for Disease Control's Vector-borne Disease Work Group with Dr. Sears.

Possible Boxholder Mailing about Tick Control. Linda suggested that the DRC might want to send out a boxholder mailing about tick control measures that individuals can take on their own. While reducing deer is the only option for island wide tick control, there are measures that individual property owners can take to reduce the likelihood of being bitten. The DRC would not endorse or promote any particular method, but would put the information out as part of Islesboro's integrated tick control effort. Devices and measures discussed were:

- The four-poster system. Linda said that the Shelter Island experiment with four-posters has shown the devices to be effective. However they are quite expensive to buy and maintain, and in the end the deer are left to breed and cause environmental vehicle damage.
- Tick tubes. Fred said he had seen them at Plants Unlimited.
- Field burning in spring and fall. Babe and Bill Tilden said there used to be regular field burning on the island.

Linda said she would gather information about these methods and would coordinate with Gordon Murphy, PA, who has been disseminating Lyme disease prevention information, to draft a boxholder mailing to go out with the June calendar. She will circulate the draft to the committee.

Meeting Schedule Going Forward. Linda circulated a draft schedule assuming that DRC meetings would be held every other Thursday until December 10, when the Special Hunt is due to begin. Philo Hutcheson said that although the committee may not need to meet that often, we should hold onto the dates, for there is much work to be done in preparation for the Special Hunt. There was discussion of the mechanics of the hunt, such as identification stickers and laminated photos. Babe suggested that one of the meetings should involve a barbecue. It was agreed to consider the schedule on a meeting by meeting basis.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 31 at 4:30 in the Town office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Check with Keel Kemper on questions relating to the 5/23/12 Advisory Council meeting. (LG)
- Work with Gordon Murphy on a June boxholder mailing about integrated tick control measures. Circulate draft to DRC. (LG)

5/18/12