

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, July, 26, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies, Philo Hutcheson, Carol Macaulay (by telephone), Gilbert Rivera, Scott Sienkiewicz, Fred Thomas (chair), William Tilden

Absent: Jacob Bethune, Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Don Johnson, Rachel Rolerson-Smith

Fred Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes, meeting of June 28, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Visitor Comments. Jewell Hausmann, a summer resident who comes to Islesboro over Christmas with her family, asked if there could be a moratorium for a day each week or part of each day during the Special Hunt, so that people could be outside without concern about hunters nearby. Fred Thomas explained that because the three-week hunt provided a limited window in which to accomplish a big and difficult job, the committee did not want island-wide restrictions other than those imposed by the State rules, which include no hunting on Sunday. He suggested talking to owners of properties where she and her family planned to walk, for the owners will be able to impose individual restrictions on their land, such as no hunting on Christmas day. Linda Gillies said that with the possible exception of two or three days, which will be well advertised, there will be no hunting on the golf course, a popular place for walking. Philo Hutcheson said that everyone would be encouraged to wear hunter orange.

Community Bulletins. Following up on suggestions made at the July DRC meeting, Linda Gillies reviewed drafts of bulletins about the Special Hunt to be included in the August Town calendar mailing, the next issue of Islesboro Island News and on island bulletin boards. The bulletins will be updated each month until the hunt. It was decided that the bulletins should be printed on orange paper or with orange ink. The bulletins should be included on the DRC website.

Deer Processing Committee (DPC). Following up on a suggestion made at the June 28th meeting, Linda spoke with Rachel Rolerson-Smith and agreed upon the following:

- Rachel will chair the DPC.
- “Deer Processing Committee” is the correct name for the committee.
- In addition to Rachel, the members of the committee will be: Linda Gillies, Babe Hatch and Carol Macaulay.

As Rachel was unable to attend the 7/26 meeting, she and Linda drew up a preliminary list of steps to be taken once a deer was killed. The committee reviewed the list and added to it. There was agreement that in general:

- The processing should be made as easy as possible for the hunters.
- There should be a well-organized paper trail documenting the processing of each deer.
- As unanticipated questions are likely to come up during the Special Hunt, DRC should authorize two or three members to make simple decisions on behalf of the whole committee at the time of the hunt.

The following aspects of the deer processing were discussed:

- Hunters will field dress their deer.
- It would be preferable to hang deer at the tagging stations. Linda will check with Laura and Rachel about this possibility.
- Each deer should have a tag with the hunter's name and a number. Linda will check with Keel about this.
- Hunters should give meat processing instructions when a deer is tagged. A copy of the instructions will be given to Moon's and a copy will be retained by the DPC.
- Deer should be transported to Moon's once a week or less (temperature will be an important factor). Linda will find out how long deer meat is aged at Moon's.
- Babe Hatch, Rachel's son and Fred Thomas have offered to provide transportation.
- Hunters may take their deer to Moon's themselves if they so choose.
- Perhaps DRC could rent a refrigerated truck for the deer. Linda will look into this possibility.
- Deer transporters will not be paid, but DRC will provide them with ferry tickets and fuel.
- The DRC responsibility for deer ends once a deer has reached Moon's. People receiving deer meat will be responsible for picking it up.

It was agreed that once the Special Hunt has been approved by MDIF&W, DRC should meet with Ron Moon and Stephen A. Jacques of the Hunters for the Hungry program, Maine Department of Agriculture. Steve contacted the DRC in early July (copies of his emails were circulated to the committee). It was suggested that they both attend a DRC meeting in early October.

Hunter Safety Committee (HSC).

- Philo Hutcheson reported that he had made a minor change to the application. Item three now reads: I hold a valid (type) _____ Maine hunting license, and understand that all Maine hunting laws apply to the Special Hunt, *except that the only firearms which may be used are shotguns, 20 gauge or larger.*
- Gil Rivera reported that the Sporting Club will allow DRC to hold Safety Briefings and range tests at the Sporting Club.
- Philo said that if a hunter has attended the Safety Briefings and passed the range test, no further qualifications are necessary to participate in the Special Hunt.
- Hunters will not need to tell the Town on whose land they have permission to hunt. However, landowners who have opened their land to the hunt since the survey in January should notify the Town that they have done so, for MDIF&W is interested in knowing how much land has been made available.

Old Business/New Business.

- Fred reported that at the request of Betsy Cohen, he had met with members of the Keller Point Association to answer questions about the hunt and to provide them with a list of hunters. The Association will make over 100 acres available to the hunt.
- Bill Tilden said that it should be made clear to landowners that more than one hunter can hunt on their land during the hunt. Linda said she would include a sentence to that effect in the DRC August bulletin.

Up-Coming Meetings.

- The next meeting of the MDIF&W Advisory Council will be at 10 am in the fire station at New Harbor on Thursday, August 16th. Pete Anderson will drive any committee members interested in attending, leaving on the 7:30 boat from Islesboro and returning in the afternoon.
- The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 23rd at 4:30 in the Town office. The agenda will include a report on the AC meeting of August 16th.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Ask Laura and Rachel about hanging deer at their tagging stations. (LG)
- Check with Keel Kemper about deer tags. (LG)
- Ask Ron Moon about how long he ages deer meat. (LG)
- Investigate possibility of renting a refrigerated truck for hanging and transportation to Moon's. (LG)

7/31/12