

TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, August 23, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies, Don Johnson, Carol Macaulay (by telephone), Gilbert Rivera, Fred Thomas (chair),

Absent: Jacob Bethune, Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Scott Sienkiewicz, William Tilden

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

Approval of Minutes, meeting of July 26, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Report on MDIF&W Advisory Council meeting of August 16, 2012. Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson and Linda Gillies attended the meeting, held in New Harbor. They said that Council members seemed well disposed toward approval of the proposed Rule and that there were no negative comments. The period for public comment ends on Friday, August 24; Linda will check with Keel to see if any comments were made.

The Council will vote on the Rule at their next meeting, to be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> in Augusta. Linda will ask Keel if it is appropriate for DRC members to attend.

Follow-up on meeting of July 26, 2012. Linda reported on the following:

- The Houles and Rachel Rolerson-Smith do not have space to hang deer after they have been tagged and before they are taken to Moon's for butchering.
- According to Keel Kemper, deer will be tagged with numbered tags during the Special Hunt.
- Moon's Wild Game Processing hangs deer 3-4 days.
- According to Ryder in Lewiston, the cost to rent a refrigerated truck is \$200 a day plus \$1.50 for each hour the refrigeration is running.

Review of Special Hunt procedures as outlined in the draft Hunter Information sheet. During discussion of the 3-page document, prepared and previously circulated by Linda, the following points were made:

- *Landowner permissions.* Carol Macaulay has created a form for property owners on 700 Acre Island and expects to have all necessary signatures soon.
- *Bow licenses.* There was question as to whether bow licenses obtained for the regular recreational hunt extend through the Special Hunt. Linda will ask Keel.

- *List of Hunters.* It was agreed that the Hunter Safety Committee, which will give a Safety Briefing and a range test to all hunters interested in participating in the hunt, will keep a list of the hunters who are authorized to hunt and will supply copies of that list to the Town and to MDIF&W.
- *Hunter Safety.* Linda reported that Philo Hutcheson was unable to attend the 8/23 meeting because he was suffering from gout. There was discussion about who might act in his place if Philo isn't feeling well enough to direct the Hunter Briefings and range tests. Fred will discuss this with Philo.

It was suggested that given that approximately 85 hunters who have expressed an interest in participating in the Special Hunt, the Hunter Briefings and range tests should begin earlier than Thanksgiving week-end, suggested by Philo at the July 26<sup>th</sup> DRC meeting.

Carol said she would do the Hunter Briefings and range tests for the 700 Acre Island hunters at a time that is convenient for her group.

- *Hanging.* In a conversation with Linda last week, Babe Hatch suggested that hunters take their deer home and when it was time to transport them to the mainland, bring them to a central location. Committee members felt it would be more efficient to store them in one location until they are taken to the mainland. The question is where. Linda will inquire whether the Town has space – possibly in a building at the Transfer Station.
- *Butchering.* It was agreed that hunters who use the Town's transportation will leave their butchering instructions at the tagging station. Linda will ask Ron Moon if he has an instruction sheet when she visits his Waldoboro facility on August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- *Transportation.* It was agreed that while some hunters will prefer to take their deer to Moon's themselves, others will use the transportation provided by the Town. How often those trips are taken will depend largely on the temperature and the number of deer taken; the frequency of trips will have to be decided at the time of the hunt. It was suggested that, in principle, trips could be made every other day – Monday/Wednesday/Friday, perhaps on Sunday. Linda will find out if Moon's accepts deer on Sundays.
- *General.*
  - *Costs.* Fred reported that several community members had complained to him about Town subsidization of transportation and butchering during the Special Hunt. Fred explained that by helping out with these costs, the Town hoped to encourage hunters to do what will be a difficult job; if there is a lack of hunters and an insufficient number of deer is killed, the Town will have to resort to sharpshooters, which at \$500 per deer, would be very costly.
  - *Newly-Opened Land.* It was agreed that landowners who have opened their land to the Special Hunt since the Town survey was sent in January should notify the Town Office. This is because the State is interested to how much land has been opened.

➤ *Regular Recreational Hunt*

- Carol said that with a view to reducing the deer population to the greatest extent possible, hunters should be encouraged to put energy into the regular recreational hunt – to shoot more lambs and does, which hunters tend not to do.
- Linda reminded the committee of Keel Kemper's suggestion that, with a view to documenting Islesboro's deer reduction as fully as possible, hunters should be encouraged to tag their deer on Islesboro during the regular recreational hunt. It was agreed that a sign to that effect should be made and placed near the existing sign for hunters on Ferry Road. People working at the tagging stations should be trained in the procedure for taking the biological data in advance of the season; Linda will talk with Keel about this.

➤ *Bulletin.* The DRC bulletin to be included with the September Town calendar should include:

- A recommendation to landowners to inform the Town Office if they have opened land to the Special Hunt since the survey sent in January.
- A recommendation to hunters to obtain appropriate hunting licenses.
- The Hunter Safety Committee's paragraph about who may participate in the Special Hunt.
- The same section as the August bulletin encouraging hunters to obtain landowners permissions as soon as possible.

Upcoming meetings.

Next MDIIF&W Advisory Council meeting – Wednesday, September 19, 10 am (time to be confirmed), Augusta.

Next DRC meeting - Thursday, September 20, 2012, 4:30 pm, Town Office. It was agreed that as most of the work between now and the Special Hunt will be done by the Hunter Safety Committee and the Deer Processing Committee, members of those committees should be sure to attend the September 20<sup>th</sup> DRC meeting, when the scope of that work will be discussed (assuming that the Advisory Council vote is positive).

Meeting with Keel Kemper/Kendall Marden of MDIF&W and Steve Jacques of Hunters for the Hungry - possibly Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (to be confirmed). 4:30, Town Office. To discuss various Special Hunt matters, including deer processing procedures. Because hunting season will be underway, Ron Moon of Moon's Wild Game Processing will not be able to attend; DRC will find other ways to work with him to come up with a plan that everyone agrees on and can stick to.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

#### FOLLOW UP

- Keel: (LG)
  - Did the Advisory Council receive any public comments by August 24, 2012?
  - Is it appropriate for DRC members to attend the September 19<sup>th</sup> Advisory Council meeting?
  - Do bow licenses obtained for the regular recreational season extend through the Special Hunt?
  - Training tagging station staff in biological procedures before start of the regular recreational hunt.
  
- Janet Anderson: (LG)
  - Does the Town have a building in which deer could be hung before being taken to Moon's.
  
- Moon's: (LG)
  - Will they accept deer on Sundays during the Special Hunt?
  - Do they have a form for butchering instructions to accompany each deer?
  
- Philo: (FT)
  - Who does he recommend to take his place if he is not well enough to direct the Hunter Briefings and range tests?
  - Scheduling Hunter Briefings and range tests beginning in October.

8/28/12