

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, September 20, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Carol Macaulay, Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Fred Thomas (chair), William Tilden

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Don Johnson, Scott Sienkiewicz

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

Approval of Minutes, meeting of August 23, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Report on MDIF&W Advisory Council meeting of September 19, 2012, Augusta. Fred Thomas said that he, Pete Anderson and Linda Gillies attended the meeting, which had gone well; the AC approved the proposed Rule by a vote of 5-1. Keel Kemper will now prepare the permit. Fred said he had some concern about the last sentence of the Rule, which reads: *The permit from the Department to the Town of Islesboro will authorize restrictions to be placed on types of weapons, bag limits and any other special conditions deemed necessary.* Linda will be in touch with Keel to ask if he will address this concern at the next DRC meeting on October 4th.

Linda said that when Wildlife Division Director Jim Connolly presented the Rule for the vote he complimented Islesboro for doing a good job in preparing the proposal, in securing community support for it and in working with the Department. At the end of the meeting AC member Mike Witte, who represents Waldo, Knox and Lincoln counties, told Linda that Islesboro's deer reduction efforts had become a prototype for the State and advised the DRC to document the project carefully for future reference.

Hunter Safety. Fred reported that on September 19th he had visited Philo Hutcheson, who has not been well. Philo hopes to be able to conduct the hunter briefings; at the least, he will do the outline. He would like another committee member to run the range tests. Should he be unable to conduct the briefings, one or more DRC members will be chosen to replace him. It was agreed that the briefings will have more credence if those leading them are certified. Gil Rivera will find out about the qualifications of DRC members.

Before the next DRC meeting on October 4, the DRC should set up a schedule for the safety briefings, which will begin in October. Philo has secured a copy of the new IF&W rule book; Pete Anderson will ask the Interim Town Manager to order 50 additional copies.

Deer Processing.

- *Procedures for biological study.* Rachel reported that on September 6th Keel Kemper had come to instruct her and Laura Houle in how to take measurements and teeth. Game Warden Michelle Merifield also happened to be on Islesboro and attended the session. Rachel said the process takes about 15 minutes and that the cutting can be difficult. She said that in general tagging for deer taken during the regular hunt is going well.
- *Spreadsheet.* The committee reviewed a draft spreadsheet prepared by Laura Houle to track the steps taken from the time a deer is tagged through the butchering process. It was agreed that having a detailed record is important and that work still needed to be done to get our system right. Linda suggested that DRC could enlist the help of someone with spreadsheet experience such as Caitlin Anderson. Linda will contact Caitlin to see if she is available. It was also agreed that hunters should be provided with a piece of paper specifying preferences in respect to deer he/she has taken.
- *Deer storage.* Where deer should be stored after tagging and before being taken to the mainland for butchering is still unresolved. Linda will look into whether the Town has a facility that could accommodate them.
- *Field dressing and deer carcasses.* Linda reported that the subject of disposing of deer entrails after field dressing and carcasses after butchering had come up at the Board of Selectmen meeting of September 12th. This concern applies to deer taken during the regular archery season and during the Special Hunt.
 - *Field dressing.* Fred said that the etiquette of field dressing should be part of the training at the safety briefings required for all participants in the Special Hunt. Hunters should go “above and beyond” to handle this aspect of the hunt correctly.
 - *Deer carcasses.* Committee members said that hunters who choose to butcher their deer themselves have disposed of the carcasses at the mail boat wharf and near Mill Creek. There may be a site near the Town septic – Linda will find out from Justin and/or Cliff Houle.

Informing the community.

- *Community information meeting.* It was agreed that the DRC should hold a community information meeting in the first half of October. Thursday, October 11 at 6:00 in the Kinnicut Center was proposed. Linda will find out from ICS if the space is available and will ask Keep Kemper if he would like to attend.
- *Hunter information sheet.* The committee made a number of changes to the previously-circulated draft hunter information sheet, which will be provided to hunters and interested community members.
- *October Bulletin (in IIN and Town calendar mailing).* It was agreed that the Bulletin should include information about:
 - Hunter qualifications.

- Permissions, including a recommendation that landowners who have not yet been contacted by local hunter/s for permission to hunt should notify the Town office, which will keep a list of available properties. Hunters who have not yet obtained landowner permission/s may consult that list at the front desk.
 - The DRC community information meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 6 pm at the Kinnicutt Center.
- *Bangor Daily News.* Linda will contact Heather Steeves, the Bangor Daily News reporter who wrote articles about the “tick” committee’s report in 2011, about a possible article on the IF&W approval of the DRC’s plan. It should emphasize that only residents of Islesboro and their families will be permitted to participate in the Special Hunt.

Next meeting. The next DRC meeting will be on Thursday, October 4 at 4:30 in the Public Safety Training Room. Keel Kemper and Stephen Jacques of Hunters for the Hungry will attend to review the DRC’s plans for the Special Hunt to date.

New business/old business. Linda reported the findings of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory’s tick survey in June: 8.91 per hour, 28% infection rate (as opposed to 8.3 per hour, and an infection rate of 49.2 in fall of 2011). The V-bDL staff expects to conduct another survey on Islesboro in the late fall. The number of Lyme disease cases on Islesboro so far in 2012 is 26 suspected and 9 confirmed (as opposed to 24 suspected and 23 confirmed at this time in 2011).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Ask Keel Kemper if he will address concerns about the wording of the last sentence of the Rule when he comes to the DRC meeting on October 4th. (LG)
- Find out about the qualifications of DRC members to conduct the hunter briefings. (GR)
- Set up schedule for Safety Briefings. (PH, FT)
- Secure 50 additional copies of the IF&W Rule Book for hunter briefings. (PA)
- Ask Caitlin Anderson if she can help with the deer processing tracking spreadsheet.
- Continue to investigate storage space for deer before they are taken to mainland for butchering. (LG)
- Find out from Justin and/or Cliff Houle about sites for deer carcass disposal. (LG)
- Find out if the Kinnicutt Center is available for the community information meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 6 pm. (LG)

- Ask Keel Kemper if he would like to attend the October 11th community information meeting. (LG)
- Contact Heather Steeves of the Bangor Daily News about a possible article.

9/24/12