

TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, October 4, 2012, 4:30 PM, Public Safety Training Room

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Andrew Coombs, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Don Johnson, Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Fred Thomas (chair),

Absent: Jacob Bethune, Philo Hutcheson, Carol Macaulay, Scott Sienkiewicz, William Tilden

By invitation: Laura Houle; Fred Porter; from IF&W - Keel Kemper, Assistant Regional Biologist, and Vic Maccalum, Recreation Safety Coordinator, Knox and Waldo Counties; from Hunters from the Hungry – Jason Hall, Director, The Emergency Food Assistance Program and Stephen Jacques, Planning and Research Associate.

Fred Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. He introduced Keel Kemper and Vic Maccalum from IF&W and Jason Hall and Stephen Jacques from Hunters for the Hungry. He also acknowledged Laura Houle, who is filling in for Philo Hutcheson, chair of DRC's Hunter Safety Committee, as he is unwell.

Approval of Minutes, meeting of September 20, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Review of Hunter Information summary. The committee and visitors reviewed and made many changes to the draft Hunter Information summary, which describes all aspects of the Special Hunt. It will serve as the basis for the community information meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>; copies will eventually be distributed to hunters and community members. Key points made during the discussion were:

- Laura Houle proposed that hunters should begin the Special Hunt application process at the Town Office, filling in their residential and hunting license information. Office staff could vet that information. Linda Gillies will ask Janet Anderson if the Town Office will be able to perform this service. Applicants would complete the application after passing the Safety Briefings/range exercises.
- Vic Maccalum and Andrew Coombs agreed that each Safety Briefing/range exercise could accommodate approximately 30 hunters. The two sessions now scheduled for Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, November 10th should suffice for the expected number of Special Hunt applicants. An additional session can be scheduled if necessary.
- Vic also said that:
  - Good communications between landowners and the hunters is important.
  - During the range exercise hunters should use the same hunting methods as they intended to use during the hunt.

- If a hunter does not pass the briefing or range exercise by 80%, he/she should try again on another day.
  - Vic can make a good DVD about hunter safety available to the DRC.
  - He plans to come out on both days that the briefing/range exercise will be held.
- Laura said that as no one on Islesboro has been a crossbow class, no crossbow hunters are expected to participate in the Special Hunt.
  - Linda reported that she had spoken with Justin at the Transfer Station and that the lean-to attached to the main building there could be made available to store deer after they are tagged and before transportation to the mainland. As the area is not secure, Linda thought that it would be best if hunters took their deer home and then brought them to a central location at an appointed time for transport.
  - Jason Hall briefly described the Hunters for the Hungry program, which is a collaboration between two State agencies, the Emergency Food Assistance Program and Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. He said that deer meat not wanted by hunters and island residents would be most welcome. Hunters for the Hungry pays for the butchering (hamburger is best) and distribution to soup kitchens and other organizations that help the needy. He said that his department had recently purchased a 16-foot refrigerated truck that might be made available to DRC for storing deer after tagging and taking them to Moon's. Hunters for the Hungry staff would do the driving. He said he would inquire and get back to us.

The committee will review a new draft of the Hunter Information summary at DRC meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, after the comments/questions made at the community information meeting have been taken into account .

Community information meeting, October 11, 2012. It was agreed that while 3-4 DRC members would speak about various aspects of the Special Hunt, the entire committee should be up on the stage, as it was at the DRC information meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Andrew Coombs will prepare coffee; Linda will bring cookies. Linda will put posters up at the key island spots.

New business/old business. Linda asked whether the DRC should consider arranging for discount blaze orange clothing to be purchased by community members during the hunt. Because these items can be bought very cheaply at Walmart, committee members said this was not necessary.

Next meeting. The next DRC meeting will be on Thursday, October 18 at 4:30 in the Public Safety Training Room.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up:

- Check with Janet Anderson to see if applicants may first go to the Town Office to fill in the first part of their applications and if staff there will vet the resident and hunting license information. (LG)
- Check possibility of the use of the Emergency Food Assistance Program's refrigerated truck (Jason Hall). (LG)

10/9/12