

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, October 23, 2014, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Michael Boucher, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Don Johnson, Jr., Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Ken Smith, William Tilden (chair)

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Carol Macaulay

Others attending: Janet Anderson, Laura Houle

Bill Tilden called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes, meeting of October 9, 2014. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

Discussion of deer counts. As the vote on a possible deer count at the October 9th meeting was split, discussion continued. Babe Hatch said he thought White Buffalo should do a camera survey this fall. Linda Gillies questioned whether all the necessary steps to prepare for a survey, including securing landowner permissions and hiring a local assistant, could be accomplished in time. Mike Boucher said that the baiting process for the survey would interfere with the extended archery hunt. He questioned whether such a count was necessary if there was to be a count following the Special Hunt. He also suggested that there might be other deer counting methodologies. Laura Houle said that at the August 12th meeting with the hunters, Anthony DeNicola had assured them that a camera survey would not interfere with the archery hunt. Linda said he had given the same assurance in a recent telephone conversation. It was suggested that the wardens Mark and Michelle Merifield could be involved in monitoring the baiting sites. Bill added that because most bow hunters hunted on weekends, the time that problems could occur would be limited. Ken Smith asked if the White Buffalo estimate included cameras on 700 Acre Island; Linda said she would find out. Several members mentioned that many community members were opposed to the pellet count methodology. Laura agreed but said that it was still an estimate, and that a third Stantec count would be comparing "apples to apples." Don Johnson felt that there should be both a pellet count by Stantec and a camera survey by White Buffalo.

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee recommends that two counts be taken in 2015: a pellet count in late March/early April and, to compare, a second type of count by White Buffalo, Inc. or another company later in the year.

The motion was seconded. 7 members voted in favor; there was 1 abstention (Rivera).

Arrangements for Special Deer Hunt 2014/15.

-Applying and qualifying. Linda asked if the off-island hunters who hunt on a regular basis with Carol Macaulay on 700 Acre Island would be participating in the 2014/15 hunt. Laura confirmed that they were welcome to participate, and that like all returning hunters, they would have to participate in the range exercise. She added that she assumed Islesboro hunters would be welcome to hunt on 700 Acre once they had checked in with Carol. Bill suggested that Carol be encouraged to participate in the November 1 range exercise.

- Storage/refrigeration. Gil said that Phil Berry is willing to lend his refrigerated truck, providing that he has not sold his express business. He will know in November. If the business is sold, perhaps an arrangement can be made with the new owner. Richard Donovan of Durkee's will also have to be agreeable. The truck will be parked at the Houle's.
- Transport. Babe Hatch confirmed that he will handle, as he did last year.
- Butchering. Babe Hatch confirmed that Boucher's Custom Cutting in Winslow will assist with the butchering, as they did last year.

DRC meeting schedule. It was agreed that the DRC should hold the two meetings previously scheduled for Thursday, November 20 and Thursday, December 1. Ken said that it was important for the DRC to establish a long-term plan, and that the committee should consider Islesboro's hunting history, who makes decisions if the island wanted changes, and suggestions that he had outlined in his memo distributed at the October 9 meeting. Mike agreed that the planning should start now. He said that the DRC should solicit as many ideas as possible and put them on the table. IF&W supports gun seasons that involve as many hunters as possible. Historically, Islesboro voters have been against gun hunting, so the DRC will have to come up with a plan that they will accept. He said that he is for having a November gun season during the extended archery season. Islesboro property owners should be allowed to participate, not just residents. Islesboro should see if it is possible to get out from under hunting regulations such as not being allowed to hunt over bait and the two buck limit. Linda said that Islesboro's regional biologist Keel Kemper should be involved at every step of the way in the planning process.

Laura said that Islesboro is largely relying on mainland people to shoot island deer in the extended archery season. She is concerned that only a few of Islesboro's younger generation have learned how to hunt, and that an effort should be made to reach out to kids and their parents. Mike said that younger hunters can be encouraged by achieving success; perhaps there could be incentives such as a prize of a shotgun. Ken said that the Sporting Club and the Town should be involved; the success of Big Tree Boating can serve as an example.

New business/old business.

Laura and Rachel Rolerson-Smith reported that 60 deer had been tagged so far in the extended archery season, - 26 by Laura, 34 by Rachel.

Mike said that the deer he had killed, which included does and nice bucks, are very healthy and well fed. Laura asked Linda to find out from Keel Kemper what information IF&W had gathered from the teeth that had been extracted by the taggers from deer killed in the last two seasons.

Linda said that she and Arch Gillies were planning to attend an information meeting that the Bar Harbor Deer Herd Control Task Force is holding on Monday, October 27 in preparation for Bar Harbor's first special hunt. She has been told that the information on the Town website about Islesboro's special hunt had been useful to the task force. She also mentioned that in the current issue of *Down East* magazine, which focuses on hunting, there is an article about Anthony DeNicola and White Buffalo; Islesboro is mentioned. She circulated copies. Finally, she said that on Sunday, October 26th three members of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory had conducted a tick survey on the island. She met with them briefly, and they mentioned that for their research, they would like to obtain the hide of a freshly killed deer and two freshly killed rabbits or hares. Committee members said they would try to accommodate this request.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up:

- Ask Tony DeNicola if 700 Acre Island is included in the White Buffalo camera survey budget. (Linda)
- Ask Keel Kemper about information gathered from extracted deer teeth. (Linda)
- Provide Vector-borne Disease Laboratory with the hide from a freshly killed deer and two freshly killed rabbits or hares. (hunters)

C: Janet Anderson; Sandy Oliver; Cindy Gorham; Maggy Willcox; Keel Kemper; Peter Rand, MD;
Chuck Lubelczyk

As amended 11/13/14

11/14/14