

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, November 1, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Carol Macaulay (by phone), Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Fred Thomas (chair)

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Philo Hutcheson, Don Johnson, Gilbert Rivera, Scott Sienkiewicz, William Tilden

By invitation: Laura Houle, Vernon Ziegler

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

Approval of Minutes, meeting of October 18, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Special Hunt database. Vern Ziegler, Town Assessor, circulated the draft of an outline for the database that he is setting up. The outline is divided into three sections – Hunter Information, Deer Information, and Transport and Processing Information. Vern explained that the information will have the capacity to be sorted in many ways. Several comments were made:

- Rachel asked whether the database should include information about how many ticks were on individual deer, for this fall she and Laura have tagged several deer with many ticks, particularly those killed on Northeast Point. It was decided that this information would not be central to the hunt.
- Laura said that the information hunters give about where deer were shot is not really reliable, as either they are unsure of the location or unwilling to specify.
- Babe Hatch asked whether the database should include the number of deer wounded. It was agreed that hunters would be reluctant to give this information.
- Babe also suggested that the database include the weight of the deer. Linda Gillies said that Keel Kemper had advised against weighing deer when they were tagged, as there was risk of injury to the taggers. It was agreed that it would be useful to know the weight of some deer. Babe will lend a scale that can be at the refrigerated truck.

Vern mentioned that since the survey in January several landowners have made or changed decisions about what land is open and hunting methods. As a result the map may have to be re-done. Fred responded that in the end, landowners can dictate where, when and how their land can be hunted, and that they should work with the hunter/s to see that those decisions are implemented.

Fred thanked Vern for his good help with the database.

Review of Safety Briefing and range exercises of 10/21/12. Laura reported the following:

- The briefing and range exercise went well; all fifteen hunters passed the written test, 9 passed the range exercise.
- It is clear that the process developed by the Hunter Safety Committee, particularly when it comes to the range exercise, works.
- Feedback from those who attended has been generally good, though some hunters would have preferred more conversation about the up-coming hunt, rather than the 1 ½ hour class.
- Vic Maccallum, Recreation Safety Coordinator for Knox and Waldo Counties, who attended, was impressed with the briefing/range exercises and plans to bring his boss on November 10th. Vic suggested that participating hunters should be surveyed after the hunt.

Laura said that the next briefing/range exercises on November 10th will include some off-island hunters who have property on Islesboro or are related to property owners here. No date for a third briefing/range exercise has been set; if the Hunter Safety Committee decides to hold them, signs can be put up.

Fred thanked the members of the Hunter Safety Committee for their good job in organizing the briefings/range exercises. He said he considered the first Special Hunt “a work in progress,” and that there should be a meeting of participating hunters after the hunt to get feedback. Some questions to be considered are:

- Continued use of buckshot?
- Will hunters who have passed the briefing/range exercises have to pass them again in future years?

New information from Keel Kemper. Linda reported that Keel Kemper had emailed a few changes to the Hunter Information summary. He also said that in the Special Hunt shooting deer which had yarded up would be legal. Finally, he sent a “heads-up” that Deirdre Fleming, a reporter with the Portland Press Herald, was planning to do an article about the Special Hunt.

New business/old business.

Compensation for taggers. Fred said that committee members had been considering how to best compensate Laura Houle and Rachel Rolerson-Smith, who will be tagging during the Special Hunt and have already begun taking measurements and teeth for the biological analysis. One thousand dollars is available in the DRC budget. Fred proposed that each tagger receive \$500 - \$250 to be paid now, the balance at the end of the Special Hunt.

Hunter qualification question. Fred said he had been contacted about participating in the Special Hunt by an off-island hunter whose partner owns land on Islesboro. Although they have been together for several years and have a child, the couple is not married. After discussion, it was agreed that because the IF&W Rule specifies that permission to hunt should be given to “spouses” of landowners, in this case the off-island hunter would not qualify (according to Carol Macaulay, there is not common law marriage in the State of Maine). Laura said that she considered this to be a “gray area” and with a view to having as many hunters as possible,

suggested a flexible approach. Fred felt that the DRC should strictly adhere to the language of the Rule.

Hunter lists. From the audience Maggie Aston asked whether there would be a list of where hunters will be hunting. Fred said that the Town Office would have a list of hunters but it would not specify where they will be hunting.

Next meeting. The next DRC meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th at 4:30 pm in the Town Office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up:

- Notify Keel that there will be a scale at the refrigerated truck; the weight of deer weighed there will be included in the database. (LG)

11/8/12