

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

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

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Don Johnson, Carol Macaulay (by telephone), Fred Thomas (chair), William Tilden

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Philo Hutcheson, Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Scott Sienkiewicz

By invitation: Vernon Ziegler. Town Assessor

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

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of February 9, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

April Public Hearing. Linda Gillies reported that the Kinnicutt Center was available on Thursday, April 26th at 6:00 pm and that she had reserved the space.

Survey Results. Vern Ziegler presented a survey compilation in the form of a spreadsheet, as well as color-coded maps. Of the 955 landowners who received the survey, 704 responded (74%). The surveys received to date indicate that 2,740 acres out of Islesboro's 8,445 acres (32%) would be open to hunting; almost all of 700 Acre would be available. 348 landowners would allow shotguns, 221 would allow rifles, 201 would allow rifles and shotguns, and only 6 specified rifle hunting only. 461 property owners would allow archery.

Vern explained that the survey results are somewhat fractured because: 1) not all respondents answered every question, and 2) several owners of large properties indicated that their properties would not be open to hunting during the Special Hunt but then specified that specific individuals could hunt there during that time.

The committee agreed that the DRC should follow up with some landowners who have not responded to the survey or whose responses were unclear; caretakers may also be consulted. Vern will prepare a list of those individuals and organizations.

Hunting Method During Special Hunt. Don Johnson said that based on recent conversations, he thought Islesboro voters would not approve a deer reduction plan that involved the use of rifles. Fred Thomas agreed that rifles would be a hard sell, even though MDIF&W does encourage all hunting methods. He also thought that because of the mandate to take a large number of deer,

having archery only would be a waste of time. Pete Anderson proposed that the DRC recommend the use of archery and shotgun. Vern said that rifle slugs can be used in a shotgun. Bill Tilden suggested that there be two warrants at Town Meeting, the first proposing the use of rifles; if that did not pass, the second could specify shotgun and archery. After discussion there was agreement that for the first hunt, the DRC should propose archery and shotgun.

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee's plan should propose that the hunting method during the first Special Hunt will be restricted to archery and shotgun. Property owners will be able to specify between these two methods.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

There was agreement that this decision having been made, the DRC should put together a recommendation for the Town properties and give it to the Town. Committee members should also contact the survey respondents who specified rifle to explain the DRC decision about hunting methods and to secure their permission for shotgun use.

Timing of Special Hunt. Fred Thomas said that conducting the Special Hunt during the holidays was a concern in the community, for people are engaged in outdoor activities at that time - gathering greens, walking, sledding, etc. Moving the hunt to January would be unworkable, because the deer are not moving around, and the cold makes hunting difficult. There was consensus that MDIF&W would not allow the Special Hunt to begin before the close of the Extended Archery season, which ends on Saturday, December 8, 2012. Therefore the Special Hunt would begin on Monday, December 10th. Several options for the duration of the hunt were discussed: December 10-23; 10-23, 26-29; 10-29. Pete Anderson felt that MDIF&W would favor the maximum amount of time, December 10-29. Fred said that landowners have the ultimate say and could stipulate no hunting on their properties during the holiday days if they so chose. There was agreement that the DRC plan should propose December 10-29 for the Special Hunt.

Tagging Station. Pete suggested that the station would not have to be open every day during the Special Hunt. After discussion it was agreed that hunters would not want to delay tagging and that the station should be open every day.

Review of Draft Plan to be Submitted to MDIF&W. Committee members reviewed and made changes to the plan drafted by Linda. The draft will be considered for final review and approval at the DRC meeting on March 8th; DRC plans to submit the request to MDIF&W on March 9th.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8 at 4:30 in the Town Office. In Fred's absence, Pete will chair the meetings of March 8th and 22nd.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Prepare recommendation for Selectman about hunting on Town Land during Special Hunt . (PA, LG)
- Prepare final draft of request to MDIF&W. (LG)

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