

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, May 14, 2015, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Linda Gillies, Don Johnson, Jr., Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Ken Smith, Bill Tilden (chair)

Absent: Michael Boucher, Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Carol Macaulay

Also attending: Sandy Oliver

Bill Tilden called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of the draft minutes for the meeting of May 7, 2015. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Discussion of articles to be considered at the Information Meeting/Special Town Meeting scheduled for June 11, 2015. Bill said that after the May 7th DRC meeting, Ken Smith had sent the text of the new articles approved by the committee to Keel Kemper. Keel felt that the Advisory Council (AC) would not approve a hunt that began in early October and strongly advised that the DRC go back to the plan proposed in the request submitted to MDIF&W in March. Ken said that the DRC should take Keel's advice. Bill said that he didn't think the AC would approve a hunt beginning in December as it doesn't work; the DRC needs to propose something new. Gil said that if we eliminated the article proposing a December-February hunt and the voters turned down a November-January hunt, we would have nothing. He felt that we should push beginning the hunt in November, for 30% of deer taken in the Expanded Archery season are taken in that month. Ken said that adding hunters as a result of the new rule pertaining to landowners would kill more deer. Ken made and Gil seconded the following MOTION:

The Deer Reduction Committee will recommend the following articles to the Selectmen for consideration by the voters at a Special Town Meeting on June 11, 2015:

A. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a three year Special Hunt beginning the first legal hunting day of November, 2015 and ending the last legal hunting day of January, 2016 and each successive year thereafter ending on the last legal hunting day of January, 2018.

If the voters reject the first article, then a second would be considered:

B. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a three year Special Hunt beginning the first legal hunting day after the close of Expanded Archery in December, 2015 and ending the last legal hunting day of February, 2016 and each successive year thereafter ending on the last legal hunting day of February, 2018.

The motion carried by a vote of 5 (Gillies, Johnson, Rivera, Rolerson-Smith, Smith) to 1 (Tilden). Linda said that for the record she wished to clarify the reasoning behind her votes. In April 2014, at the invitation of Bill Tilden, she returned to the committee as secretary, primarily to do the minutes and to assist with other clerical matters. While she is not in favor of Special Hunts, believing that sharpshooting would be more effective, she feels that the majority view of the DRC should be given a chance and has voted with it. She added that she

also does not believe in deer population counts, for early on the committee was advised by both Gerry Lavigne, formerly of MDIF&W, and Keel Kemper that the poor condition of the islands' forests is sure indication that there are too many deer; however, for the time being she will go along with the DRC's majority view that counts should be continued.

Linda went on to say that the DRC should present the articles as approved to the Selectmen at their meeting on May 20th.

Discussion of preparation for the June 11th Special Town Meeting:

- Agenda. There was agreement that while most people will come to the meeting ready to vote, others may need more information. Individual DRC members should briefly address specific aspects of the proposed Special Hunts and then take questions. Linda will prepare a proposed agenda and circulate it to the committee.
- Promotion. There was agreement that Linda should prepare a brief article for IIN summarizing the articles to be voted on at the June 11th Special Town Meeting. She will also do a piece about the deer pellet count results. Linda will also prepare a summary of the articles for the June Town calendar mailing.

DRC meeting schedule. It was agreed that the next DRC meeting will be held at 4:30 on Thursday, June 18th in the Town Office meeting room.

New business/old business.

- Stantec deer population estimate report. Linda circulated the report, which was completed on May 13th. It was agreed that the DRC would discuss the results with the Selectmen on May 20th. Don Johnson said that members should read the report carefully in order to be prepared.

Linda said that the Selectmen were likely to ask about the DRC's tentative plan to arrange for a camera survey in the fall. Don Johnson said that while White Buffalo has submitted a \$12,530 proposal for the survey work, at previous meetings DRC members suggested that another company could be found. Linda asked if anyone had researched other companies. She had looked online and had not found many. Rachel Rolerson-Smith and Ken Smith offered to look into this.

- Bill mentioned that at the DRC meeting of April 9th, he had circulated copies of a letter that he had received from Keel Kemper relating to deer feeders that Mike Boucher had placed on his property; Keel had sent a copy of the letter to BoS chair Arch Gillies. In the letter Keel reported that Mike asserted he had received permission from both Keel and Mark Merrifield; Keel wrote that he had not given such a permission, nor had Mark Merrifield. Arch and Town Manager Janet Anderson looked into the allegations and concluded that the story had several versions and that reasonable misunderstandings were likely. The matter is now closed.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow up:

- Prepare a proposed an agenda for the June 11th Special Town Meeting and circulate it to the committee. (Linda)
- Prepare brief articles for the May/June issue of IIN about the articles to be considered at the June 11th meeting and the results of the deer pellet count. (Linda)
- Research companies that conduct camera surveys to estimate deer populations. (Rachel and Ken)

C: Janet Anderson; Sandy Oliver; Laura Houle; Fred Porter; Cindy Gorham; Maggy Willcox; Keel Kemper; Mark Merrifield; Peter Rand, MD; Chuck Lubelczyk

Approved 6/24/15