

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday, July 28, 2015, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

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

Absent: Michael Boucher

Also attending: Sandy Oliver, Fred Porter, Maggy Willcox

Gil Rivera called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of the draft minutes for the meeting of July 22, 2015. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Update on information about deer camera surveys. Ken Smith circulated a written report about information that he had found. He said that using written material supplied by Mike Boucher and on-line information, he had researched several companies that perform deer surveys using cameras. Some are out west, most deal with big tracts of land. Others specialize in the deer populations of cities. Ken contacted four companies and sent each a request for proposal (a sample copy was included in his report). One expressed interest but has yet to submit a proposal; there has been no response from the others. Ken said that there was disagreement about how successful the camera surveys are. It is his impression that they give a rough estimate of the deer population. Ken said that Tony DeNicola had claimed that the technique can accurately estimate deer populations, but Ken had not seen any study verifying this.

Ken Smith said that IF&W will not support a camera survey during the expanded hunting season because baiting deer is against the law if you're hunting them. Babe Hatch said that you can bait, you just can't hunt over it. He added that he had seen deer with antlers formed. Fred Porter said he was seeing groups of deer in the usual spots, one night there were many. Sandy Oliver said that they were having a Hunter Reduction Committee meeting.

Advisory Council meeting pf August 6, 2015. Ken reported that Advisory Council (AC) member Gunnar Gunderson had contacted him and planned to visit Islesboro in the next few days. Ken, who will give him a tour, would like to involve as many DRC members as possible in the visit; he will let people know as plans develop. Ken said that at the AC meeting he and Gil are expected to answer questions from the Council members and will provide positive answers, emphasizing that the DRC proposal reflects the will of the voters. He said that, in his opinion, obtaining approval for the DRC proposal would be an uphill battle.

Gil asked how many additional hunters would hunt in the Special Hunt, now that all landowners are allowed to participate. Ken said he thought that the number would double and that some hunters would take time off to hunt.

Review of procedure for landowner permissions during the Special Hunt. Linda Gillies circulated the draft of an information bulletin about permissions; the committee made no changes. The bulletin will be included in the August Town calendar mailing.

Ken suggested that the Town office make available the standardized permission form found in the IF&W fish and game booklet. Linda said that she would look into it.

Fred Porter said that it would be helpful if hunters labeled the blinds they put up during the Special Hunt.

Increasing DRC membership. Gil said that through signs and the website, the Town has announced that the DRC is looking to fill 4 vacancies. Gil said that he would discuss DRC membership and attendance with the Selectmen at their meeting on July 29. Ken suggested asking hunters who live off-island to join the committee so that they could advise on how to kill more deer. Gil said he thought there was plenty of expertise on the island. Babe said that he had talked with three people about joining the committee, but they weren't interested.

Next DRC meeting. The next DRC meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 11th at 4:30 pm in the Town Office.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow up:

- Linda to obtain IF&W's standardized landowner permission form.

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

Approved 8/11/15