

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, August 28, 2014, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

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

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Carol Macaulay

Attended meeting: Laura Houle, Ken Smith

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

Approval of Minutes, meeting of July 24, 2014. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

Review of Workshop with Board of Selectmen, DRC, Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee, Concerned Citizens of Islesboro, 8/25/14. The committee reviewed the workshop notes taken by Janet Anderson. A second information meeting was scheduled for 9/8/14, with Anthony DeNicola (ADN) returning to meet with the DRC and potential hunter trainees. A Special Town Meeting was scheduled for 9/23/14 (the BoS subsequently changed the date to 9/30/14). ADN's "half island" research proposal was discussed and there was agreement that because the difficulty of choosing which half of the island would have sharpshooting and which half would be designated for the continuation of the Special Hunt, the proposal was unworkable.

Questions about the Proposed Sharpshooting Program. The committee reviewed the questions assembled by Doug Welldon. Gil Rivera and Don Johnson questioned whether the WB count would be reliable, because a high number would be financially advantageous to WB. Babe Hatch said he had spent time in the woods lately and had found no evidence of deer; he also said that the WB meat processing costs were about double what they were for the Special Hunts (it was pointed out that the high cost was because the butcher would come from off-island with two vans). Laura Houle questioned whether the WB plan called for a sufficient number of local apprentice hunters, whether people would be willing to participate, and what the process for choosing them would be. She also asked if technicians assisting with the baiting needed to be hunters. Doug agreed to add these questions to the list and to send it to ADN and to the committee.

Preparation for Tony DeNicola's visit to the island September 7-9, 2014. Linda Gillies said that ADN is planning to fly from Virginia to Augusta, arriving Islesboro late on the evening of Sunday, September 7. He will stay till mid-day on the 9th, as his return flight is in the late afternoon. It was decided that in addition to attending the 6 pm Information Meeting, ADN should attend an 8 am breakfast meeting with the DRC at the Sporting Club and a noon lunch meeting with the hunters who shot deer during the two Special Hunts. Laura will provide a list of hunters to Linda, who will send the letter out by September 2nd. Between meetings and on Wednesday morning, ADN can look at possible baiting sites.

Poll of committee. Ken Smith asked for an informal poll of the committee's views on the sharpshooting issue.

-Gil Rivera - Need to have a count before a determination can be made.

-Doug Welldon - As the Special Hunt had not killed as many deer as hoped, supports sharpshooting.

- Don Johnson - Preferred not to say.
- Rachel Rolerson-Smith - Because of other commitments had not been involved recently, but feels that the CCI financial underwriting of the proposed sharpshooting program had the island "over a barrel."
- Babe Hatch - Likes the Special Hunt as it is. CCI is throwing money away. The vote should knock the sharpshooting proposal down.
- Linda - Sharpshooting is the most effective way to address the island's serious health crisis.
- Bill Tilden - For sharpshooting.

Bill said that he questioned estimating the deer population by means of pellet counting and that we should have another method. Don said the WB method was better than pellet counting.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

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