

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, September 18, 2014, 4:30 PM, Public Safety Room

MINUTES

Present: Linda Gillies, Carol Macaulay (by phone), Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, William Tilden (chair), Doug Welldon

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Don Johnson, Jr.,

Visitors: Arch Gillies, Jerome Reynolds, III, Ken Smith, Maggy Willcox

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

Approval of Minutes, meeting of August 28, 2014. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

Review of Anthony DeNicola's visit of September 7-9, 2014. Bill Tilden said that he had learned more about the sharpshooting method, particularly about the baiting. Doug Welldon noted that when, at the lunch with hunters who had killed deer during the Special Hunts, Gil Rivera asked who would want to participate in the sharpshooting process, six people raised their hands. This would be a sufficient number to fulfill White Buffalo's requirements and would allow for back-ups.

Review of Board of Selectmen's Information Meeting, September 8, 2014. Bill noted that the tone of the meeting was quieter than that of the August 8 Information Meeting. Gil said the September 8 meeting was not well attended. Doug said the Town Office had taken a count at both meetings: 120 people attended on August 8, of whom 30 were registered voters; 91 people attended on September 8, of whom 58 were registered voters.

Arch Gillies - report on conversation with IF&W Commissioner Chandler E. Woodcock. Select Board chair Arch Gillies said that a year ago he and several DRC members had met with the Commissioner, and that Arch had promised to keep him informed. Arch called him on September 15, 2014 and the Commissioner returned the call the next day, saying that Keel Kemper had briefed him on the current deer-related issues on Islesboro. Arch reported on the two Information Meetings and on the petition submitted by Concerned Citizens of Islesboro, which will come to a vote at a Special Town Meeting on September 30. The Commissioner acknowledged that Islesboro had a serious health problem and had to deal with it. He said that IF&W would support a sharpshooting program, which in his view would be effective. In the conversation Arch mentioned that no matter what the outcome of the September 30 vote, Islesboro would likely have a third deer count, this time with a camera survey by White Buffalo, rather than the Stantec pellet count. The Commissioner expressed interest in the camera survey.

A wide-ranging discussion followed:

- Jerome Reynolds, who lives on the mainland and participates in the extended archery seasons on Islesboro, suggested that in order to solve the health problem and maintain hunting, bow hunters be allowed to bait and should be given some incentive, a reward for each deer killed. It was noted that neither monetary incentives nor baiting are permitted by the State.

- Ken Smith said that Islesboro should stay with bow hunting, which should be opened up to hunters from around the state, including those who use crossbow. Doug responded that bow hunting has not been able to achieve the numbers necessary to reduce the herd sufficiently. Linda Gillies noted that from its beginning in 2011, the DRC has opposed having off island hunters come during any Special Hunt.
- Ken questioned Anthony DeNicola's statement that he had tested bullet heads on 1500 deer craniums.
- Gil Rivera asked what portion of the budget he has submitted to Islesboro will go into research, as White Buffalo is a non-profit organization. Arch responded that under IRS guidelines, everything that WB does is considered to be research, and that his charges would be solely for deer reduction on the island.
- Arch asked if the DRC wished to take a vote indicating where individual members stood in respect to the petition. It was agreed that, as several members were absent, the DRC would not take such a vote.

Next DRC meeting. Bill said he felt the DRC should meet as soon as possible after the September 30 vote, rather than waiting for the next scheduled meeting on October 23. It was agreed that the next meeting should be on Thursday, October 9.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

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

Approved as amended by DRC 10/9/14