

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, May 3, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies, Don Johnson, Carol Macaulay (by telephone), Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Fred Thomas (chair)

Absent: Jacob Bethune, Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Scott Sienkiewicz, William Tilden

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

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of April 19, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Review of Information Meeting of 4/26/12, preparation for Town Meeting. Fred Thomas said that while he thought the meeting had gone well, from the questions it was clear that at Town Meeting, before the vote, Fred should read a prepared statement providing more information about two aspects of the proposed Special Hunt, the budget and safety concerns.

- Budget. Committee members reviewed the projected budget for 2012-2015, eliminating the costs of survey and map work in 2013 and 2014. Pete Anderson asked whether the number of deer undergoing biological analysis could be reduced: Linda Gillies said she would check with Keel Kemper. Fred asked if the cost of the deer survey in 2015 could be reduced, given that Stantec has established the template for the count; Linda said she would check with Steve Pelletier at Stantec.
- Safety. The committee discussed the question posed by Julie Reidy at the Information Meeting, “What happens if there is a serious accident during the hunt – will it be discontinued?” Gil Rivera said that on the mainland, hunts keep going if there is an accident. Pete said that this question arises because people are not used to firearms on Islesboro, where they have been forbidden. Carol Macaulay said that were there to be an accident, State and local law enforcement officials would come in immediately. It was agreed that they would temporarily shut down the Special Hunt and make an assessment of the accident and continuation of the hunt.

Several other points relating to safety were made:

- Linda asked if there should be some sort of hotline during the hunt. The committee decided it would be best to have up-to-date information about the Special Hunt posted on the Town website.

- Rachel asked if the budget should include overtime for law enforcement. Fred said that the Public Safety Officer is consistently active during the regular season and no doubt would be so during the Special Hunt.

- As there has been concern about the safety of crossbow use, after discussion:

MOTION: During the Special Hunt crossbows would only be allowed for use by hunters who are 70 years of age or over or those with a special handicap permit.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- Wardens will be present at the beginning of the Special Hunt and occasionally during the hunt. At the outset they will instruct tagging station personnel about how to weigh and measure deer and to pull teeth.

Preparation for Town Meeting, 5/12/12.

- Linda will draft and circulate a statement including budget and safety information, to be read by Fred.
- Linda will update the spreadsheet of Town allocations, expenditures and projections 2009-2015 for the committee's use (it will not be circulated at Town Meeting).
- The large map of land available for hunting during the Special Hunt will not be exhibited.

Revised amendments to MDIF&W request. Linda reported that after the Information Meeting, Kendall Marden suggested adding a section about gift deer meat to the amendments. Linda also added a phrase saying that the DRC will make an effort to make more land available during the extended archery season, as well as during the Special Hunt. Carol said this point was important, for her impression at the March 29th Advisory Council meeting was that the Council wanted Islesboro to come up with ways to make hunting on the island more hospitable to hunters from the mainland. Committee members should be prepared to address this issue at future Advisory Council meeting.

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee approves the amendments to the Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife request, as amended.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Letter of support for the MDIF&W request from Dr. Stephen Sears. Linda reported that Dr. Peter Rand of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory had requested updated information about recent DRC activities, for he wished to report on them at the 5/1/12 meeting of the Maine Center for Disease Control's Vector-borne Disease Work Group, which is chaired by Dr. Stephan Sears, State Epidemiologist (epidemiology is "the branch of medicine that deals with the study of the causes, distribution and control of disease in populations"). At the meeting Dr. Sears said that if

it would be helpful, he would be willing to write a letter to MDIF&W's Advisory Council in support of the DRC's request for authorization to conduct a Special Hunt. Linda checked this with Keel Kemper, who was in favor of such a letter. After discussion,

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee approves the concept of a letter of support for its request to the Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife from Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Linda reported that Dr. Rand's response to her account of recent DRC activities was, "Very impressive! The committee is creating a beautiful model for how things should be done."

Next MDIF&W Advisory Council meeting. According to Keel Kemper, the next Advisory Council meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 23rd at the Princeton Rod and Run Club in Princeton, ME (near Calais). The time is still to be determined. DRC members are encouraged to attend. Linda said she will let the committee know when the meeting is to begin.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17 at 4:30 in the Town office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Ask Keel Kemper about the number of deer that should undergo biological analysis. (LG)
- Ask Steve Pelletier about a reduction in the cost of the 2015 deer count. (LG)
- Prepare written statement for Fred to read at Town Meeting. (LG)
- Inform committee of 5/23 MDIF&W Advisory Committee meeting time. (LG)

5/5/12