

Town of Islesboro  
Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
August 12, 2014 @ 3:00 PM  
Town Office Meeting Room

## Minutes

Members Present: Chair Arch Gillies, Sandra Oliver, Jay Zlotkowski, Fred Rollins and Hannah Kerr.

Others Present: Town Manager Janet Anderson,  
Tony DeNicola - White Buffalo,  
Keel Kemper - Regional Wildlife Biologist MDIF&W,  
Tick-Borne Disease Committee members - Doug Welldon\*, Alison Wood, & Linda  
Gillies\*,  
DRC Members William Tilden, Paul Hatch, Don Johnson,  
CCI Member Alexandra Gillespie  
IIN - Maggy Wilcox  
Others - Kara Masters-Siekman, John Gorham, Cindy Gorham, Phil Berry,  
William Schoppe

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM and a quorum was established.

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to meet Tony DeNicola of White Buffalo to hear his first reaction after visiting the island and to discuss the issue of tick-borne illness on Islesboro. DRC members as well as members of the Islesboro Sporting Club spent time with Mr DeNicola this morning, brainstorming ideas and discussing the layout of the island.

T. DeNicola spoke at length regarding his discussions with the various organizations, after which he believes the majority of the citizens will not vote for a sharp shooting method to decrease the population of deer for one reason or another. He says there is still disbelief amongst many that the eradication of deer is the answer. He proposes a solution that is both a compromise and a way to gather scientific data to quell the disbelief that deer are the root of the problem.

T. DeNicola's proposal is to divide the island in two sections - one half of the island will go forward with the special hunt as planned, while the second half of the island will undertake the sharp shooting method. On both sides of the island, however, he proposes to put in place technological methods of counting deer as he says the pellet count of the past is not as accurate and has too much variability. Looking at identifiable number of male in the population and the images of females is clearly a far more accurate method to estimate population. This will be four year project. Another facet of this idea would be the integration of local hunters into the process who could go forward after the 4 year project and would be knowledgeable enough to maintain the deer population at a healthy level.

William Tilden, DRC Chair, said he is beginning to favor the sharp shooting method island-wide. He has reservations about dividing the island in half as he feels there will be political ramifications resulting, and doesn't like the idea of running a scientific experiment on ourselves. He doesn't like the idea of four years out having one half of the island still suffering from Lyme Disease while the

other half is not.

[Alison Wood, PA-C](#), said that waiting seven years out on the half of the island that doesn't get the sharpshooters is far too long as there are too many sick people right now. She wonders if we can afford to wait. She also suggested that in determining which side of the island would get the sharpshooters, that there should be research into where patients being treated for Lyme actually live, and she could do this given the time.

[Keel Kemper](#) said that the Commissioner is willing to work with Islesboro in any and all ways possible, but he must be kept informed along the way. They will not "force anything down the throat of Islesboro".

[Paul Hatch and Don Johnson](#), both members of the DRC. P. Hatch said that Mr. DeNicola has a lot of common sense, and knows what he is talking about. He spent several hours with him today and listened to Mr. DeNicola. He said that he is a "down to earth" man and really listened to us. Don said he spent time with Mr. DeNicola today as well and that "he's worth listening to".

[John Gorham](#) said that he feels what the town has been lacking is data and that this would be a way to gather much needed data.

[Alexandra Gillespie, CCI](#), said that her first response after hearing of T. DeNicola's idea is that it was a "cool" idea, but after more thought felt as Mr. Tilden did, that it is a social experiment on our population and she is somewhat uncomfortable with that thought.

[Doug Welldon, DRC and Tick-Borne Disease Committee](#), is in favor of the idea. The deer population will go down and feels it is a consensus building move.

[Arch Gillies, BOS Chair](#) says that they are obligated to hold a Special Town Meeting within 60 days of July 24 when the Petition was received, therefore they must hold the Special Town Meeting before September 24, 2014. The petition cannot be modified. The BOS can, however, prepare an additional article(s) to be voted on at the same meeting. The BOS will consider their options at an upcoming BOS meeting and begin working on language for an additional article that would perhaps incorporate this latest idea of dividing the island in half as discussed above.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Pike  
Secretary to the Islesboro Board of Selectmen.

\* Members of DRC and Tick-Borne Disease Committee