

TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, December 6, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson, Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Carol Macaulay (by phone), Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Scott Sienkiewicz, Fred Thomas (chair), William Tilden

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Philo Hutcheson, Don Johnson

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

Approval of Minutes, meeting of November 1, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

700 Acre Island during the Special Hunt. Fred Thomas said that DRC members had brought up questions about hunting eligibility and safety briefings on the island.

- Eligibility. After discussion, it was decided that hunters who have qualified for the Special Hunt on Islesboro may hunt on Acre Island if they secure landowner permission and check in with Carol Macaulay.
- Hunter safety. As hunters intending to hunt on Acre are being given safety briefings by Carol Macaulay, who has years of hunting experience but is not certified as a safety instructor by the State, Babe Hatch questioned whether they were receiving safety reviews comparable to those given on Islesboro. He said in order to have checks and balances, two people should be giving the Acre briefings, and at the least, Carol should have come to one of the Islesboro briefings.

Fred responded that when last winter the DRC approved Philo Hutcheson's plan for safety briefings, it was understood that Carol would do the Acre briefings and issue the Special Hunt permits. It was never made mandatory that State-qualified instructors should be involved there or that Carol should attend an Islesboro briefing. After this year's hunt the DRC can discuss and amend Acre Island's safety briefing process for next year. For now, the issue is water under the bridge and should be put to rest. Carol said that she would be glad to attend a briefing on Islesboro next year.

Election of new DRC member. Fred proposed that Laura Houle be made a member of the DRC. Laura, who chaired the Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee in 2010/11, volunteered to take over from Philo Hutcheson as chair of the Hunter Safety Committee when he became ill this

fall and has done an excellent job. Her candidacy was approved by the Board of Selectmen on November 22, 2012.

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee elects Laura Houle as a member of the committee.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Compensation for Laura Houle and Rachel Rolerson-Smith. Fred proposed that the DRC should compensate Laura and Rachel for the considerable time and effort involved in taking the biological information during the regular season and tagging and record keeping during the Special Hunt. Flexibility in the DRC budget will allow for this cost.

MOTION: The DRC will pay \$500 each to Laura Houle and Rachel Rolerson-Smith for taking biological information during the regular season and tagging and record keeping during the Special Hunt, \$250 to be paid immediately, \$250 at the close of the hunt.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Press. Linda Gillies reported that Deirdre Fleming of the Portland Press Herald, who wrote the 11/18/12 article, would like to “follow a hunter around” during the hunt and to meet with several hunters after the hunt. Ken Smith, who was present, said she could follow him. It was suggested that she attend the DRC meeting of January 3, 2013. Linda will follow up with Deirdre.

Hunting on the golf course. Linda reported that Gladstone Jones, President of the Tarratine Club, had looked into allowing hunting on the course during the Special Hunt, as the club would like to cooperate with the Town’s deer reduction initiative. Two factors mitigate against hunting on the course: 1) Under the State statute, private clubs are not covered for liability. The language suggests that there would be no protection for the Tarratine Club if there were a hunting incident on club property. 2) The Tarratine Club's insurance policies provide for coverage for incidents that occur "as a result of club related activities" (golf, tennis, sailing). There would be no coverage for someone injured in a hunting accident. Given these factors, for the time being the Tarratine has decided not to allow hunting on the golf course at any time.

Permits during the Special Hunt. Fred reported that on November 20th, Keel Kemper sent an email saying that a “very big wrinkle” had developed and requested a phone call. In a conference call on December 4th he explained that a disgruntled bow hunter on the mainland who is opposed to the hunt had threatened legal action against IF&W. The grounds are that a section of the Rule book under Title 12 (p. 157), which allows the Commissioner to create special hunts in order to deal with over-abundant deer populations, refers to another part of the Rule book (p. 129) which stipulates that in any hunt, including a special hunt, hunters must have permits for each deer killed (\$12 for a doe, \$32 for a buck). IF&W staff and the Advisory Council failed to take note of this provision during the approval process for Islesboro’s Special Hunt. This year the agency has no choice but to add the requirement that Islesboro hunters must purchase permits for each deer. It is possible that this requirement could be changed for next year’s hunt.

Most DRC members felt that the Town should cover the cost of the permits purchased by hunters during the Special Hunt. In all probability the DRC's budget can accommodate this cost. If not, the Selectmen, to whom Pete Anderson and Linda gave a report about this development at their meeting of December 5<sup>th</sup>, have indicated that funds could be made available from the Town's general funds.

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee will underwrite the cost of permits purchased by hunters in connection with the Special Deer Hunt.

The motion was seconded and approved, with one opposed.

After further discussion:

MOTION: The Deer Reduction Committee will underwrite the cost of permits purchased by hunters in connection with the Special Deer Hunt according to the following procedure:

- 1) Initially, the Town Office will issue permits for one antlered and one antlerless deer at no cost to the hunters.
- 2) When the permits have been filled, hunters may return to the Town Office for an additional permit or permits so that each hunter has a permit for one antlered and one antlerless deer.
- 3) Hunters may purchase permits online, but they will only be reimbursed by the DRC for permits that have been filled in connection with the Special Hunt.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Issues to be discussed after the Special Hunt: Linda said she had been keeping a list of issues that had arisen during preparation for the hunt. To date it includes:

- Use of buckshot.
- Use of crossbows.
- Safety briefings/range exercises for hunters hunting on 700 Acre Island
- Eligibility (example – Islesboro landowner who lives on the mainland, is not married to male partner with whom she has children).

DRC meeting schedule. The next scheduled DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 4:30 in the Town Office. If his schedule allows, Keel Kemper should attend the meeting.

Fred said that it may be necessary to call a meeting during the course of the Special Hunt.

New business/old business.

- Babe Hatch said that one of the DRC's guidelines relating to who may participate in the Special Hunt is unclear and has led to some confusion. Fred reviewed the language, which was developed by Philo Hutcheson and approved by the DRC: *Non-residents of*

*Islesboro who own properties on the island that include habitable, taxable dwellings which they occupy for part of the year 2012 and members of their immediate families (as defined above).*

He said that “part of the year” could mean one day a year. Fred and other committee members agreed that after this year’s Special Hunt the DRC guidelines relating to qualification should be reviewed and clarified.

- Linda suggested that if there were funds remaining in the DRC budget after all Special Hunt expenses had been paid, the DRC should consider making a contribution to the Sporting Club, which has been so helpful in providing the facilities for the safety briefings.
- Carol Macaulay said that because several landowners had recently allowed the use of shotguns on their 700 Acre Island properties, most of the island will be open to the Special Hunt.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up:

- Notify Deirdre Fleming that: 1) she may accompany Ken Smith at some point when he hunts during the Special Hunt 2) she is invited to the January 3, 2013 DRC meeting. (LG)

12/18/12