

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Monday, March 11, 2013, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson (acting chair), Jacob Bethune, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Laura Houle, Philo Hutcheson, Carol Macaulay (by phone), Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith,

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Don Johnson, Scott Sienkiewicz, Fred Thomas, William Tilden

Pete Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes, meeting of February 25, 2013. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Review of information received since the DRC meeting of February 25, 2013. The committee discussed information received in recent emails from Keel Kemper of MDIF&W and Tony DeNicola of White Buffalo, Inc. (attached). In his email of February 26, Keel wrote that during the 2012 regular archery season and the Special Hunt a total of 196 deer were taken on Islesboro and 700 Acre Island and gave details. In his emails of February 26 and 27, Tony reacted to the DRC's decision of February 25th that the DRC should proceed with a second Special Hunt in 2013, strongly advising against it on the grounds that it will "negatively train: the deer. Committee members made the following comments:

- Pete Anderson said that the Selectmen formed the DRC in order to reduce the deer herd to 10 per square mile, and that it was clear from the numbers sent by Keel that the recreational hunting methods used by the committee do not work well enough to meet the goal. He read the DeNicola emails aloud and said that in his view, to continue with a second Special Hunt was doing the Town an injustice.
- Linda Gillies agreed with Pete. She added that in a conversation with Keel after receipt of the DeNicola emails, he said that deer "calm down" after a year; in a subsequent email he said he had confirmed this with Kendall Marden. Linda said that she then called Tony with Keel's information. Tony's response was that a year later the deer might be calmer for a week or so, but basically the process of negative training had begun. He said that if the DRC were to have a second Special Hunt, he believed the job of finding and killing deer on Islesboro would be so much more difficult that his price would be closer to his original estimate of \$177,000.
- Buddy Bethune said that the final decision about deer reduction would have to be made by the Selectmen. He also expressed the hope that Tony DeNicola could sit down and talk with the DRC.
- Philo Hutcheson said he felt the Special Hunt isn't going to do the job, and that the DRC should return to the proposal he made at the February 25th meeting - that we take a year off and look for alternative solutions; there may be ways to do sharpshooting for less money. Having a second hunt was throwing good money after bad, wasting the Town's money. He expressed

disappointment that so few people from Islesboro tagged deer in the extended archery season. He added that there was always the possibility of opening up shotgun hunting to the rest of the state.

- Gil Rivera felt the main problem would be convincing the Town to change its deer reduction strategy, especially in view of the cost of sharpshooting. He thought the Special Hunt should be held for a second year and that the DRC should ask MDIF&W and the Town for more “tools” – rifles, baiting and an extended season. He questioned Linda about the packet for the Selectmen at their March 13th meeting. She said it would include the second White Buffalo proposal, the emails from Keel and Tony and the rough five-year budget projections, all of which had circulated to the committee. She had asked Tony for more budget details, but he said that fine tuning should be done only when the decision had been made to proceed with a sharpshooting approach.
- Babe Hatch said that the Special Hunt should be held for another year. He felt that there were less deer on the island, that they were out of the woods. Citing an incident when a rifle bullet came through his aunt’s bedroom window, he said he would oppose rifle use.
- Laura Houle felt that an insufficient number of deer were taken to meet the DRC goal. She reported that many hunters thought they could be more successful if they could use rifles. She acknowledged that at least half of the people who participated in the hunt were not experienced hunters and asked if they could be further educated. She thought that the sharpshooting alternative might be possible. In her view, the biggest issue would be enlisting a sufficient number of volunteers. She suggested that the DRC should go to the Selectmen with all the information we have; they particularly need to understand the money part.
- Rachel Rolerson-Smith thought that the Special Hunt should be held for a second year.

Several members said that the DRC should stick with the motion made on February 25th, which recommended a Special Hunt in 2013, acknowledging that the differences in opinion among committee members were not resolved. It was agreed that the committee should present all the information to the Selectmen at their meeting on March 13th, with a view to looking for their direction.

DRC meeting schedule. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 4:30 pm in the Town Office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary