

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, March 22, 2012, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Pete Anderson (Acting Chair), Jacob Bethune, Andrew Coombs, Linda Gillies, Paul Hatch, Jr., Philo Hutcheson, Don Johnson, Carol Macaulay (by telephone), Gilbert Rivera, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, William Tilden

Absent: Scott Sienkiewicz, Fred Thomas

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

Approval of Minutes, Meeting of March 8, 2012. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

DRC's Hunter Safety Committee. Philo Hutcheson, chair of the committee, announced that Andrew Coombs had agreed to join Carol Macaulay as a member of the committee.

Coyote Issue. Pete reported on his email of March 20th to Keel Kemper, Wildlife Biologist at MDIF&W, saying that a coyote had been seen at two sites on Islesboro (Alley and Oldham) and that people were questioning if MDIF&W was responsible for bringing the animal/s to the island. In his response Keel was clear that "MDIF&W did not and does not trap and relocate coyotes throughout the State of Maine" and that the coyote/s surely swam here, as they are strong swimmers. In subsequent emails Keel said that coyotes, which eat "anything," are likely to be considered a nuisance. MDIF&W has expanded opportunity to hunt coyotes to the maximum extent – they can be hunted with guns year-round, night hunting requires a permit. Linda said that the coyotes on Isle au Haut did not significantly reduce the large deer herd there.

The committee agreed that coyote control on Islesboro was separate from the DRC's mission. Philo suggested that Linda Gillies forward the information provided by Keel to Maggy Aston at IIN, as she will no doubt be covering the subject.

Request to MDIF&W. Linda circulated the final request, which she said had undergone a number of changes since it was approved by the committee at the March 8th meeting and submitted to MDIF&W on March 10th. On March 13th, at Keel Kemper's request, Pete, Linda, Keel and Wildlife Biologist Kendall Marden met by phone to review the document section by section. Both Keel and Kendall, who will be presenting the document to the MDIF&W Advisory Council on March 29th, had quite a few suggestions. After Linda submitted the revised request, Keel emailed with further suggestions, asking for a third draft. The final request went out to MDIF&W on March 21st.

One change made by Keel and Kendall was that shotguns should be “greater than 20 gauge.” Philo proposed that language be amended to “20 gauge shotguns with slugs or greater.” Linda said she would contact Keel and Kendall to see if they were in agreement with this change.

Budget. Pete reported on the Selectmen’s review of DRC’s budget at their workshop on March 21st.

- Concerns. The Selectmen found the budget to be high, particularly the cost of the tagging station during the regular extended archery season and butchering.
 - Tagging station. Pete said that a second station would be a convenience for all hunters. He also explained that the committee had been concerned about the State numbers and that a station near the ferry would ensure an accurate count, which is important for the deer count on Islesboro. He suggested that the Town try the second tagging station for one year; if the numbers turn out to be similar to what the State has come up with in the past, we could return to having just the Houle station.
 - Butchering. Pete said that participation in the Special Hunt would be a job for the hunters, not recreation, and having the Town subsidize the butchering would take the cost of participating off their shoulders.
- Vote. The Selectmen discussed whether the DRC plan should be considered by the voters at Town Meeting on May 12th or at a Special Town Meeting later in the year. They decided on including it as an article at Town Meeting.

Bill Tilden asked whether having a second tagging station would be unfair to Laura Houle. It was agreed that while she did a very good job, that station was not always open. Linda said she had talked with Laura, who would be amenable to whatever the committee recommends.

Planning for Information Meeting, April 26, 2012.

- Meeting’s name. Linda reported that in a recent email Fred Thomas said we should make it clear in promotional material that April 26th is an “information only” meeting, no votes will be taken. There was agreement that it should be called an Information Meeting.
- Notices. Linda read the notice giving the date, time and location of the meeting. The notice will be included with the April Town calendar and in the next issue of IIN.
- Powerpoint presentation. Linda circulated a rough draft of the slides to be included in the presentation, which will be put together by Caitlin Anderson. Committee members suggested several additions. Discussion followed:
 - Fred will make a few welcoming remarks and committee members will take different sections of the presentation, as was done by the “tick” committee at the Special Town Meeting on August 24, 2011.
 - Copies of the DRC request should be made available at the Town Office, the Library and the Community Center. Linda will see that this is done.
 - Committee members will give their suggestions for the presentation to Linda, who will incorporate them into a new draft to be considered at the April 5th DRC meeting.

- The committee will rehearse for the presentation at the April 17th DRC meeting and then before the actual presentation on 4/26.

Next Meeting. The next DRC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5 at 4:30 in the Town office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

FOLLOW UP

- Forward Keel Kemper's information about coyotes to Maggy Aston. (LG)
- Contact Keel Kemper about the possibility of 20 gauge shotguns with slugs. (LG)
- Make copies of the DRC request to MDIF&W to be put in Town Office, the Library and the Community Center after MDIF&W's 3/29 decision. (LG)

3/25/12