

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 4:30 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Michael Boucher, Linda Gillies, Carol Macaulay (by phone), Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Ken Smith, William Tilden (chair)

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Paul Hatch, Jr., Don Johnson, Jr., Gilbert Rivera

Bill Tilden called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of the draft minutes for the meeting of January 13, 2015. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Report of deer taken to date in Special Hunt. Rachel Rolerson-Smith reported the tagging numbers to date: Rachel - 5, Laura Houle - 20, Carol Macaulay on 700 Acre - 4, total - 29.

IF&W Advisory Council. Ken Smith reported that he had contacted Gunnar Gundersen, Islesboro's representative on the Council and was scheduled to meet with him on January 29th at Moody's Diner. Ken planned to invite him to visit the island. It was agreed that other members of the DRC should be available to participate in the visit.

Report on Stantec pellet count proposal. Linda Gillies said that she had contacted Steve Pelletier, Principle, and Michael Johnson, biologist, at Stantec Consulting. They have submitted a proposal to Janet Anderson, who has signed it. Michael emphasized the importance of securing landowner permissions. Linda said that the process - a big job - would begin immediately. Mike Boucher said that in past people conducting the survey had been found on land where no owner permissions had been granted and that they had backpacks full of deer antlers.

Consideration of Ken Smith's draft *Islesboro Deer Reduction Plan from 2015/16 Forward*. Ken said that after the January 13th DRC meeting, Bill had sent the draft to members asking for suggestions. Mike and Linda have responded. Discussion followed:

- Plan to be submitted to MDIF&W. Linda said that while Ken's one-page plan was a good start, the plan that the DRC submits to MDIF&W will have to be considerably more detailed, similar to the one submitted to the agency in March/April 2012. Bill Tilden suggested that a small working group draft a more comprehensive plan. It was agreed that he, Ken, and Linda will meet at 2 pm on Sunday, February 1 at Ken's house to work on the draft. It will then be sent to the full committee with a request for comments; the committee will review and approve the document at the February 26th DRC meeting. Mike said that it was important to have input from as many DRC members as possible so that the committee buys into the new plan.
- Community input. Mike said that the DRC also needs to hear voices from the community, and to that end there should be a workshop in March to hear comments.
- MDIF&W deadline. Linda said she would find out from Keel Kemper when the MDIF&W deadline for proposals is.
- Hunters. Mike said the proposal should stipulate that "qualified residents" will include all landowners, including summer residents and people who own land on the island but do not live here.

This change will add a considerable number of hunters. Ken said that the Sporting Club should be empowered to ensure that hunters are qualified. Mike said that the NRA offered excellent hunter training. He added that when hunting with both bows and shotguns is happening simultaneously, bow hunters must wear hunter orange.

- Voting. Carol asked whether there could be absentee voting when the new plan comes before a Town Meeting. It was agreed that voters must be present.

New business/old business. Linda said that the DRC should begin thinking about the committee's budget for 2015/16, which is due February 3rd.

DRC meeting schedule. It was agreed that the next DRC meeting would be held on Thursday, February 26 at 4:30 in the Town Office. Setting a schedule for subsequent meetings was deferred.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow up:

- Schedule Gunnar Gunderson's visit to the island. (Ken)
- Prepare detailed draft DRC plan for MDIF&W. (Bill, Ken, Linda)
- Distribute plan to DRC. (Linda)
- Give Ken suggestions for the draft plan. (all DRC members)
- Ask Keel Kemper about deadline date for MDIF&W proposal. (Linda)

C: Janet Anderson; Sandy Oliver; Laura Houle; Fred Porter; Cindy Gorham; Maggy Willcox; Keel Kemper; Mark Merrifield; Peter Rand, MD; Chuck Lubelczyk

Approved by DRC as written 2/26/15