

New Shoreham Deer Task Force
Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Town Hall, Old Town Road
7:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Mary Sue Record, Rebecca Ballard, Christopher Blane, Christopher Blansfield, Paul Deane, Patricia Doyle, Maggie Komosinski, George Mellor and William Wilson. Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Chair Mary Sue called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Status Updates

Transfer Station

Ms. Ballard reported on the final details of the pilot program. Hunters may drop off deer waste at the Transfer Station any weekday from 9:00 to 12:00. They will be directed to the appropriate dumpster. Block Island Recycling Management will bill BIRA directly, every 15 days. BIRM principal Sean McGarry will track the expense at \$.12 per pound, and has agreed to accept \$200 per month during hunting season to cover the cost of the pilot program. BIRA has allocated \$600 for this hunting season. Mr. Deane provided the Town Clerk's Office with information on the pilot program for distribution with deer permits.

Mr. Blane said he used the system, and left 100 pounds at the Transfer Station after shooting three deer.

Ms. Record wanted to know how to measure the effectiveness of the program in reducing the deer herd. Mr. Blane said the system would help landowner relations, and keep property open to hunting. Ms. Komosinski asked whether it would be useful to record the number of deer and hunters in order to track progress.

Walk-In Refrigerators or Freezers

The item was not discussed because Mr. Blane said the need was for November and December.

Krause/Fish meeting

Ms. Record, Ms. Komosinski and Ms. Doyle will schedule a meeting. It will be posted as a DTF meeting.

Health Services

The request for information from the Medical Center, and the means of getting it, will be clarified with First Warden Gaffett. The group is seeking historical figures and ongoing information regarding tick borne illnesses such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis. Dr. Baute said Lyme is a "reportable disease" and incidents of Lyme diagnosis are logged to the RI Department of Health.

Information available about deer, Lyme disease, control etc

Ms. Record explained the CCLD kept reference information in a binder. She said the system worked well, and asked members to give her any pertinent information they found in their research.

2. Deer Count

Discussion of a deer count ensued.

- BIRA has pledged \$2,100 for a deer count. Deer tipping fees may be included.
- Mr. Mellor provided a statistical estimate of the number of deer on the Island.
- Infrared may be more accurate, it is more expensive
- Count in 1992 used fixed wing aircraft with infrared camera
- Counts in 1998, 2000 & 2001 used a helicopter flying a grid pattern with two spotters/counters. Opinions differed on accuracy.
- Spotlighting is illegal, even for counting deer
- A roadside count, extrapolated for Island area, was suggested
- Conditions are ideal for an aerial count with two snowfalls and an extended cold snap: the snow cover increases visibility and its duration motivates deer to move around and browse
- It doesn't matter how many deer there are, the object is to kill them not count them
- An accurate count is needed to measure success

Mr. Blansfield moved a helicopter flyover be undertaken to establish the number of deer on the Island, using the \$2,100 pledged by BIRA. Motion seconded by Mr. Blane.

Ayes: 7 (Record, Ballard, Blane, Blansfield, Deane, Komosinski, Wilson)
Nays: 2 (Doyle, Mellor)

George Mellor will help Chris Blansfield organize the flyover.

Kim Gaffett and Paul Deane will contact Kathy Sparks of the RI DEM for a status report on the DEM deer count.

Ms. Record moved to defer items 3 (Public education regarding hunting) and 4 (Organizing hunting land) to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Ayes: 9 (Record, Ballard, Blane, Blansfield, Deane, Doyle, Mellor, Komosinski, Wilson)
Nays: 0

5. Role of CCLD

The five former CCLD members cannot meet together to discuss deer because they constitute a quorum of the Deer Task Force. CCLD members may be encouraged to attend DTF meetings.

6. Approval of the minutes from December 22, 2009

Ms. Record moved to approve the minutes of December 22, 2009, seconded by Mr. Blansfield.

Ayes: 6 (Record, Ballard, Blane, Blansfield, Deane, Komosinski, Wilson)
Nays: 0

At 9:00, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Deane.

Ayes: 9 (Record, Ballard, Blane, Blansfield, Deane, Doyle, Mellor, Komosinski, Wilson)

Nays: 0

Minutes approved: January 19, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick