

**New Shoreham Deer Task Force  
Tuesday, February 15, 2011  
Town Hall, Old Town Road  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Mary Sue Record, Maggie Komosinski, Bill Wilson, George Mellor, Pat Doyle and Paul Deane (after the first vote). Also present were First Warden Kim Gaffett and from the Block Island Times Judy Tierney.

Not Present: Becky Ballard, Chris Blansfield, Chris Blane

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Public Input – none**

**Approval of minutes from Dec. 15, 2010**

Minutes of December 15, 2010 were accepted in a motion by Bill Wilson and seconded by Maggie Komosinski.

Ayes: 5 (Record, Komosinski, Wilson, Mellor & Doyle) Nays 0 Absent: 4 (Ballard, Blansfield, Blane and Deane [had not arrived yet])

**Approval of minutes from Jan. 18, 2011**

Minutes of Jan. 18, 2011 were corrected and accepted in a motion by Maggie Komosinski and seconded by Pat Doyle.

Ayes 6 (Record, Komosinski, Wilson, Mellor, Doyle & Deane) Nays 0 Absent 3 (Ballard Blansfield and Blane)

**New Business**

- **Proposed hunting plans**-Chris Blane was absent. Paul Deane discussed the deer tag process which he said is a deterrent for most hunters. After discussion a motion was made by Mary Sue Record and seconded by George Mellor formally request that the Town Council discuss with the DEM the following:
  1. increase the number of deer tags allowed for purchase at one time by a hunter.
  2. the paperwork for tagging process be simplified
  3. the cost per tag be eliminated or reduced.

After discussion about adding the reasons for these requests the motion was voted:

Ayes 6 (Record, Komosinski, Wilson, Mellor, Doyle & Deane) Nays 0 Absent 3 (Ballard Blansfield and Blane)

- **Discussion of Town Council's work on:**
  1. Management agreement for Rodman's Hollow. Kim spoke about the Black Rock Management Plan meeting. DEM will make a counter proposal to the request to allow hunting on the property.

2. Fish and Wildlife – Charlie Vandermoer met with Nancy Dodge. He had a more positive attitude about hunting for next season on their properties. He expressed an interest in meeting with the Deer Task Force.
  3. Liability - Cathy Sparks of DEM did not think this was a real issue. After discussion a motion was made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Mary Sue Record to ask the Town Council to ask the Town Solicitor about liability to individual owners or organizations as a result of hunting activity on property they own or have an easement on.
- **Dates for 2011-12 hunting season**  
Kim Gaffett said that the Council sets the dates at their interim April meeting and that the Deer Task Force can give suggestions. Paul Deane volunteered to have dates for the next meeting.
  - **Conservation Groups**  
Maggie Komosinski said that they would not go back to these groups until they had a seasonal count and the liability issues were resolved. She did mention that they did meet with Scott Comings of The Nature Conservancy. Scott thought that a survey about herd reduction would be a good idea.
  - **Education and other communities' actions**  
Using the model from Nantucket, Pat Doyle suggested an article which would include the charge of the Deer Task Force, what the Deer Task Force has found, what they have learned and what they have accomplished so far. There was discussion about educating the public first and then surveying them. This would include the other methods of deer reduction and having the latest information. Maggie Komosinski pointed out that Shelter Island uses the four poster method in certain areas and they find it too expensive. Prudence Island thinks that, in addition to a managed hunt, coyotes are reducing their herd.
  - **Statistics**  
These will be gathered at the end of the hunting season. George Mellor reported \$500 in transfer station fees and one advance for deer tags for \$125.00.

At 8:19 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by George Mellor and seconded by Maggie Komosinski and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved: 4/19/2011

Bonny Ryan