

**Deer Task Force
Tuesday, August 21, 2012
Town Hall, Old Town Road
5:00 p.m.**

Present: Ruth Perfido, Chris Blane, Mary Sue Record, Sara McGinnes, Paul Deane. Bonny Ryan was present to take the minutes

Not Present: George Mellor and Becky Ballard

Also present in the audience were John Fournier, Terry Mooney and Judy Tierney from the Block Island Times.

Meeting was called to order at 5:02

Public Input – Mr. Fournier expressed interest in joining the task force. Mr. Mooney who is running for Town Council was interested in what the Task Force was doing.

Approval of minutes from July 17 and March 20, 2012

A motion was made by Ruth Perfido and seconded by Chris Blane to approve the minutes of March 20, 2012

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

A motion was made by Mary Sue Record and seconded by Sara McGinnes to approve the minutes of July 17, 2012 with minor corrections.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Conservation groups – Ms. Perfido reported that at their August 10, 2012 meeting the Block Island Conservancy approved hunting on Plat 3 Lot 86-4 to be added to the Town land hunt following all of the Town's rules and regs. It was reported that the Land Trust is drafting a letter to the Task Force explaining their reasons for not allowing hunting on their properties.

Change to charge from Town Council to include environmental deer damage – Ms. Record reported that she had a conversation with Scott Comings of the Nature Conservancy. They spoke about what the deer were grazing on.

A motion was made by Mary Sue Record and seconded by Sara McGinnes to let the Nature Conservancy know that the Deer Task Force is interested in the Nature Conservancy doing a bow-hunting study.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Weapons allowed during the 2012-13 deer season. – A motion was made by Mary Sue Record and seconded by Sara McGinnes to request that First Warden Kim Gaffett bring the issue of restricting lesser weapons during the shotgun season to the Deer Task Force for an advisory before discussing it with the Council.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Last meeting assignments – Letter to Cathy Sparks re DEM hunt – Mary Sue Record

reported that she had sent the letter and has not had a response yet.

Letter to Director of RI Department of Health – Ms. Record made a motion to defer sending this letter until the Medical Center resolves its issues. This motion was seconded by Paul Deane
Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Newspaper article re Rodman’s Hollow lottery – Ms. McGinnes had put this in last week’s BI times.

Statistics from Yale – tabled until George Mellor is present

Hunting interest forms – after discussion about updating the form, a motion was made by Ms. Record and seconded by Mr. Deane to send the forms through BIRA and to post a form on the Town’s website.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Long Range Plan – the attached draft outline was submitted by Ms. McGinnes and Ms. Perfido. The plan was discussed line by line. Since two members of the committee were not in attendance, Ms. McGinnes will email the plan to them for discussion and consideration at the next meeting. A motion was made by Mary Sue Record and seconded by Sara McGinnes to take the plan and bring back points of discussion for the next meeting.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Meeting with Catherine Doyle-Capitman-Ms. Record reported on this Yale Student who is doing research on deer management for her thesis. It was reported that she had quite a bit of information to share. A motion was made by Sara McGinnes and seconded by Mary Sue Record to invite Catherine Doyle-Capitman to a deer task force meeting.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

Interview with Kristin Gourlay- Mary Sue Record reported that she was interviewed for One Square Mile on RI NPR and that Ms. Gourlay was setting up a public forum on September 8, 2012 to include Drs. Fish, Krause and Duik-Wasser.

A motion was made by Ms. McGinnes and seconded by Ms. Perfido to have Mary Sue Record represent the Deer Task Force in a Public Forum to be held on September 8, 2012.

Ayes 5 (Perfido, Blane, Record, McGinnes, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Mellor, Ballard)

ecoRI.com – this site was mentioned as a great source of information.

Fish and Wildlife – Ms. Record reported on her conversation with Juan Carlos Guese who is reporting on where the plan is in the legislative process.

There was a review of assignments for next meeting’s agenda.

At 6:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mary Sue Record and seconded by Sara McGinnes to adjourn and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved:

Bonny Ryan