

Deer Task Force
Monday, May 12, 2014
Town Hall, Old Town Road
6:30 p.m.

Present: Ruth Perfido, Becky Ballard, Bill McKernan, George Mellor, Paul Deane, Heather Hatfield and Lisa Sprague.

Also present: First Warden Kim Gaffett, Medical Service Director Barbara Baldwin and Fraser Lang and Susan Mieczko from the Block Island Times.

Ruth Perfido called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Public Input-

There was no public input.

2. Approval of minutes from April 15, 2014 –

The minutes of April 15, 2014 were approved as written in a motion by Ruth Perfido, seconded by Bill McKernan.

Ayes 7 (Perfido, Ballard, McKernan, Mellor, Deane, Hatfield, Sprague) Nays 0

3. Ongoing Business

- Discussion and approval of 2013 Annual Report for Town Council – L. Sprague, R. Perfido

George Mellor suggested changes to the report as follows: 1) under “April” – add a line noting the Town Council moved to embrace the modified Skidaway Plan in a vote 3 to 2; 2) Add attachments to the document; 3) Delete the word “great” from the first line of the “Conclusion.” Discussion ensued.

Ruth Perfido moved to approve the 2013 Annual Report for Town Council with two changes: 1) under April – add a line noting the Town Council moved to embrace the modified Skidaway Plan in a vote 3 to 2; 2) Add attachments to the document. Bill McKernan seconded the motion and it carried.

Ayes 7 (Perfido, Ballard, McKernan, Mellor, Deane, Hatfield, Sprague) Nays 0

4. New Business

- Planning discussion to address issues raised at May 7, 2014 joint Town Council/Deer Task Force meeting

Ruth Perfido reviewed the following items brought up at the joint meeting that require further discussion:

- The need for better data regarding deer counts
- The need to update current educational materials re: deer reduction and tick related diseases
- The creation of DTF subcommittees for work projects
- Consideration of future interactions with the DEM
- Working with local hunters on deer reduction.

Discussion ensued on all issues.

It was decided to have the Town Council send a letter to the DEM requesting the following information regarding all previous deer counts: 1) # of deer counted; 2) weather conditions on the day of the count; 3) date and time performed; 4) methodology and narrative for each count.

Becky Ballard will reach out to volunteers to assist with updating education materials.

Paul Deane will reach out to local hunters to discuss creating a potential organization and/or planning the development of a special hunt next season.

Bill McKernan moved to recommend that the Town Council ask for legal advice regarding the legalities of providing incentives for hunting, with the costs to be paid from the Deer Task Force budget line. Heather Hatfield seconded the motion and it carried.

Ayes 7 (Perfido, Ballard, McKernan, Mellor, Deane, Hatfield, Sprague) Nays 0

It was noted for the minutes that a cull rate 50% is needed to reduce the herd in a finite number of years.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, at 8:00 p.m. a motion was made by George Mellor and seconded by Heather Hatfield to adjourn and voted unanimously.

Minutes accepted:

Millie McGinnes