

New Shoreham Deer Task Force
Town Hall, Old Town Road
August 12, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Present: Bill McKernan; Becky Ballard, Ruth Perfido, George Mellor. Also present were Medical Center Director Barbara Baldwin; Lily O’Gara from the Block Island Times; Town Manager Nancy Dodge, Hunter Chris Blansfield; Councilor Gary Ryan
Not Present: Lisa Sprague, Heather Hatfield, Paul Deane

Meeting was called to order by Ruth Perfido at 7:35 p.m.

1. Public Input – none
2. Approval of minutes from June 23 and July 14, 2014 meetings.

Bill McKernan moved to approve the minutes of June 23 as written, seconded by Becky Ballard.
Ayes 4(McKernan, Ballard, Perfido, Mellor) Nays 0 Absent 3(Sprague, Hatfield, Deane)

Becky Ballard moved to approve the minutes of July 14 with corrections, seconded by Bill McKernan.

Ayes 4(McKernan, Ballard, Perfido, Mellor) Nays 0 Absent 3(Sprague, Hatfield, Deane)

3. New Business

- Discussion re: landowner permission procedures: There was discussion on how to make the contact easier for the land owner and the hunters. There will be a list of hunters available instead of land owners. Hunters will give their contact information to be put on the Town website.
- Discussion and action re: DEM proposed hunting dates: Larry Mouradjian of the DEM had sent a letter to the Town stating that the abstract will have archery dates starting September 15 inclusive of weekends and holidays on Block Island. The Town ordinance says no hunting on weekends or holidays. Nancy Dodge will talk to Town Solicitor Kathy Merolla and information will be posted on the Town’s website with the dates that were submitted by the Town.

4. Ongoing Business

- 2014-2015 hunt season –
 - (a) discussion and action re: Town Manager proposal for tail purchase plan, including check station and dissemination of information –
Nancy Dodge has the following proposal:
 1. The town will pay resident hunters the sum of \$150.00 per deer tail during the 2014-2015 hunting season. Resident hunters shall be defined as anyone who has a valid Rhode Island hunting license and meets the residency requirements of Sec. 2-2 of the town ordinances. The payment shall apply to hunter using any authorized means to take deer-archery, shotgun etc. All provisions regarding landowner permission and hunting rules will apply.

2. The Town will set up a check station for the resident hunters for the duration of the hunting season and will staff the check station on hunting days. As in the past, the check station will be located behind the State garage on Ocean Avenue unless another location is selected. The intention is to staff the check station by town employees – police or occasionally highway workers.
3. In order to receive a payment, an individual must be processed through the check station and one tag will go on the deer and the tag number and hunter's information will be recorded for the town's purposes.
4. All payments will be processed through the town finance office and will be mailed to any resident hunter who qualified at the end of each month.
5. All hunters will be responsible for disposing of the carcasses of any deer taken themselves and the town shall not be responsible for anything but the tail.
6. The Town can discontinue payments at any time by posting a Notice in the newspaper and on the website of the Town.

(b) discussion and action re: postponement of a professional cull – This was not addressed at this time.

© discussion re: donor status – Bill Penn will contact donors through the BIRA website. Ruth Perfido and Becky Ballard will contact people who still have funds invested and those people who took their money back after the original cull was postponed.

For next meeting the aerial survey will be addressed. Next meeting is September 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m. Becky Ballard moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill McKernan and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved:

Bonny L. Ryan