

Shelter Island Deer & Tick Committee

Meeting Minutes 01/14/10

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman Rae Lapidés, Janalyn Travis-Messer, Abigail Field, Pat Shillingburg, Dr. Scott Campbell and Jennifer Zacha

Members Excused: Mike Scheibel, Dr. William Zitek, Steve Lenox

Non-Committee Present: Supervisor Jim Dougherty, Chief James Read, Councilman Ed Brown, Pat King and Ted Hills

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lapidés at 10:06 am at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

- ❖ Chairman Lapidés opened the meeting by introducing the Committee's newest member, Abigail Field, who stated she was honored to be on the Committee and looks forward to working with the other members.
- ❖ Chairman Lapidés then asked the group for input on the remaining meeting dates for the year. It was decided that future meetings would be held on the third Wednesday of every month, and Ms. Travis-Messer called out the dates. Ms. Zacha checked with the Deputy Town Clerk, and was told that all dates were fine, with the exception of March 17th. The group decided to keep the meeting on that date but to hold it at a TBD location. All meetings will be at 10 am. The dates are as follows:

February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug 18, Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15
- ❖ A discussion was started regarding the status of the ¼% grant application. It was decided that Chairman Lapidés will be in

contact with Jeremy Samuelson of the Group for the East End and Ms. Travis-Messer would be in touch with Legislator Ed Romaine in order to ensure that progress continues to be made on this project.

- ❖ It was then mentioned that Supervisor Dougherty has recently been named Chairman of the East End Supervisors and Mayors Association. Ms. Travis-Messer asked if there is a chance the project could obtain funds from the Association. Supervisor Dougherty answered that it would not be anytime soon, if at all. They have \$200,000 in funds and there needs to be discussion amongst the Association members on how that money will be used. The DEC and the Department of Agriculture and Markets have claims on some of the monies, so there are still many details that need to be worked out.
- ❖ Chairman Lapides added that the Deer & Tick Foundation has just brought an experienced fundraiser on board, which will help in their procurement of funds.
- ❖ Chairman Lapides then discussed an update that she received from Mike Scheibel via e-mail. Mr. Scheibel reported that there have been 135 deer taken in Mashomack Preserve, which is up 35% from the previous year. Chief Read then added that the number of deer vs. vehicle accidents is also up by 15 from 2008. It was noted that this number is still down significantly from years prior to the nuisance hunt being in effect.
- ❖ Dr. Campbell asked the group if the Vision Air flyover was going to occur this year. Chief Read responded that the money is in the Town budget to cover it, but since the results were unsatisfactory last year, they have been hesitant to reschedule it for the current year. Supervisor Dougherty mentioned that if it were to be done, it would take place sometime during the end of March. Chief Read added that Susan Walker (Cornell) provided the project with more reliable deer count numbers using a different method. Chief Read then recommended that the committee look into other companies and/or research whether or not the flyovers should be continued or if another method such as Ms. Walker's should be utilized. Dr. Campbell stated that this should be decided on during the

February meeting and that it would be beneficial if Mr. Scheibel were in attendance at that meeting so he could provide his input as well. Ms. Field inquired whether the group should consider the flyover anymore if the data was inaccurate. Chairman Lapides answered that in prior years, the data was more accurate and that only 2008's numbers were significantly off. Chief Read added that the Town did not pay for 2008's flyover due to the inaccuracy of the data. He reiterated the need to look into other options and/or companies. Ms. Shillingburg commented that Ms. Walker would not be at the project's disposal in the coming years and that an independent system should be in place for the future collection of this data. Ms. Field inquired as to whether or not another person could perform this data collection or if Ms. Walker utilized special equipment. Chairman Lapides mentioned that Mr. Scheibel employed another method and he could possibly do this work in the future. Dr. Campbell added that there are many ways to gather this data and that the group needs to decide which course of action to take during the February meeting. Chief Read offered to forward a report to Ms. Field, which outlines in detail the data collection method used by Ms. Walker.

- ❖ Chairman Lapides then shared with the group an e-mail she received from Dan Gilrein (Cornell) regarding the information he wanted her to report to the group in his absence. He reported that all the 4-poster units have been removed from the field and will be cleaned and stored as soon as the weather allows, hopefully within the next week or so. He feels that the twice-weekly service visits were an improvement over prior years and that corn quality was good and consistent. He anticipates that work will continue even more smoothly in 2010. He recently provided a 2010 budget and statement of funding needs for Cornell to Jeremy Samuelson. He mentioned that Cornell did receive a private donation of \$25,000 last month, and that they still need approximately \$205,000 more for the year. He plans to have the 4-posters back in the field in mid-March in the same locations as 2009. He also added that they have done some preliminary summaries of corn data from 2009 and he will have more details on this at the February meeting. It appears that around 4,600 bags of corn were used for the 40 units outside of Mashomack and about 1,700 for the 20 units in the Preserve in 2009. Corn consumption peaked in

September and dropped sharply around the end of that month and remained low into November.

- ❖ Dr. Campbell then asked if the project officially ends on December 31. Chairman Lapidés replied that the physical aspects of the project will end around mid-December, but that Cornell will use the following few months to compile their reports.
- ❖ The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17 at 10 am.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Lapidés at 10:45 am.