



# Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

MINUTES  
HUNTING COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF MAY 16, 2019

167 Main Street. Edgartown, Massachusetts

CALL TO ORDER: 4:03pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Phoenix Rogers, Nelson Sigelman, Richard Johnson, Eric Medeiros, Peter Vincent and Pam Goff (Land Bank Commissioner)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Ned Casey, Skip Bettencourt, and Bret Stearns

STAFF PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Cindy Krauss, Ian Peach

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MEETING OF AUGUST 30, 2018: Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Vincent, Second: Mr. Medeiros. All in favor: unanimous

I. PUBLIC PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER None

II. PUBLIC INPUT None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hunting Season 2018 Recap (data, survey, logistics)

Ms. Krauss gave an introduction articulating how the shotgun lottery works and her role in facilitating permitting. She explained how two years ago there was a change made to have even and odd days be alternating days for "groups – or gangs" and "individual" hunters. Groups are considered 6 hunters or more. She reported complaints from many individual hunters

who could only hunt every other day for a short two-week shotgun hunting season. She also explained how at a property, such as Wapatequa, that previously had only 2 hunters using it, was opened to large groups and the land bank received complaints from neighbors about hunters moving through private property and complaints of the gun discharges.

Ms. Krauss went on to explain that last season, per the committee's recommendation, the lottery system was changed back to the original system, with no "odd" and "even" days, instead allowing everyone to apply for any days that were available, while ensuring there were no on property conflicts in scheduling between groups hunting together and individuals. Ms. Krauss reported that there seemed to be less confusion and that most hunters were satisfied with the lottery system set up in this way. The concept was introduced by land bank staff to request that hunters fill out a short survey sent by email directly after hunting season ends instead of the typical survey that is part of the next year's application process. Land bank staff commented that hunters may not remember details of their hunting in the prior year's season. There also are currently too many questions and the staff is proposing to make the survey short and to the point, gathering only the data they anticipate using for management decisions.

Ms. Rogers commented that a question about "shot and lost" deer might be useful.

Mr. Medeiros mentioned that a question asking if you were checked by land bank staff or if you had any interactions with other hunters or the public might be helpful as well. He also stated that as many and as bright as possible signs should continued to be used to warn the public.

Ms. Goff brought up the question of how the Hunting Policy should instruct hunters to handle deer guts/entrails and carcasses after the kill.

Mr. Sigelman explained that people with no land or place to bury deer have to bag them up after butchering the meat and take them to the land fill. He said that it is standard practice to field dress a deer (remove the entrails) and leave the guts in the woods.

Ms. Goff asked if the land bank should have its own pit? Mr. Peach reported that the management staff has to remove or bury a few deer each season that have been left near a trail or trailhead. He explained that the staff often just takes the deer or guts and buries them well away from any trail or trailhead on the property. Mr. Johnson mentioned that perhaps hunters could compost their carcasses with the new large-scale

composting operation at Island Grown Initiative. Mr. Peach said he would reach out to Matthew Dix, who manages the composting operation.

Mr. Peach then read *Part 1.11 of the Hunting Policy* (regarding viscera). Mr. Sigelman stated that the policy section on viscera should be changed to hunters can bury their viscera in place as long as they are at least 100' feet from any trail or trail parking area. He clarified that it would be only the guts, not other parts of the deer.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to recommend to the Land Bank Commission to amend Part 1.11 of the Hunting Policy (regarding viscera) to state that "viscera may be buried on the property as long as it is at least 100' from a trail or trail parking area".

Mr. Sigelman seconded the motion. All in favor. Aye.  
Unanimous.

B. Lead in Ammunition

Mr. Peach introduced the concern of the impact of lead in ammunition. He stated that in his research it appears the cost of non-lead ammunition would be 3-4 times more expensive, but as an environmentally minded conservation organization should we have a higher standard of environmentally sensitive hunting?

Mr. Rogers noted that no lead ammunition can be used for waterfowl hunting and introduced an idea of selecting certain sensitive watershed areas to place a non-lead ammo restriction.

Mr. Sigelman stated that the land bank policy should not change for lead until the state Fish and Game policy changes. A general consensus was to return to this next year after more research and consultation with the state.

B. Removal of Tree Stands

Mr. Peach introduced the management concern of hunters leaving tree stands up all the time and not following the policy of having the stands down by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Sigelman explained that sometimes it takes years to get a spot all scouted and learn about deer patterns and perhaps some hunters don't want to lose a location to hunt that they have studied. He wondered if

there could be a sectioning off of some properties on the hunting map, so hunters know where they can and can not have a stand and the area could be monitored. After short discussion it was agreed upon that this would be too much unnecessary work on the permitting side and on the staff management side. It was then agreed upon that hunters will be put in contact with one another when they are offered a property to hunt – then the hunters will be in charge of coordinating stands and timing amongst themselves as needed.

C. Agency Policy: Tisbury Firearm/Hunting Permissions

Mr. Peach read an excerpt from the Tisbury Town bylaw about permission for using any weapon on town or public lands. Mr. Medeiros said he was on the committee dealing with this matter and thinks that in the drafting of this language it did not intend to cover the land bank, even though, it is public land. He said he would follow up with Mr. Peach about this matter and send a copy of the updated policy/bylaw. If needed, Mr. Peach will ask for a letter of clarification from the Tisbury Town selectmen.

E. Recommendations for hunting on newly acquired properties

Mr. Peach shared maps of Tashmoo Preserve and a new 22-acre section adjacent to John Presbury Norton Farm.

Mr. Medeiros asked the number of permitted shotgun hunters allowed at John Presbury Norton Farm. Mr. Peach said it is currently 8. He said it should be kept at 8 as the 22-acre section would just allow for hunters to spread out and is not enough to warrant more hunters on the property at one time.

It was recommended by unanimous support to keep the John Presbury Norton Farm shotgun lottery number at 8, even with the eventual inclusion of the new 22-acre section.

In regards to Tashmoo Preserve, Mr. Peach explained that the Land Management Plan allows for waterfowl hunting. Mr. Sigelman stated that there may not be too many ducks there. Ms. Rogers thought it would be a good place to hunt ducks with her dog because of the shallow water of Tashmoo.

It was recommended by unanimous support to keep the Tashmoo

Hunting Subcommittee, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Preserve Land Management hunting policy as waterfowl only.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm

draft