

TIRRA AGM  
Thursday, March 22, 2018

Chair Su Downey convened the meeting in Forbes Hall shortly at 7:02pm. In addition to the Chair, present from the executive committee were: Ernie Hunter, Treasurer; Claire Hess, Secretary; Graeme Shelford, Highways; Suzanne Sarioglu, St Margaret's Cemetery. Attendees included 17 members and 2 non-members for a total of 19.

Stu welcomed everyone, thanking them for attending.

He referred to his President's report, thanking each Officer, Committee Chair and the numerous TIRRA volunteers. Special mention to Kathleen McIsaac for her work on updating our Bylaws, and to Andrew Stewart for ongoing advice with regards to Trail Licence Agreements. Stu also touched on other TIRRA endeavours; letters of support for ACT, BCUC RIB input, RCMP thanks, grant applications plus that TIRRA appoints individuals to TICF and TIPC.

Stu moved and Keith seconded the Minutes from the TIRRA October 2017 General Meeting, held Thursday, October 26, 2017. Passed unanimously.

Reports are posted on the TIRRA Reports, Financial and General on the Community website:

<http://www.thetisisland.net/community2006.htm>

Keith Rush updated the meeting on the Ferry Advisory Committee and the Thetis Island Improvement District which sustains the Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department. The outline of his reports are posted on the TIRRA reports website.

For the FAC, Keith spoke of the April 1st, 2018 reinstatement of days for Senior free travel, a 15% fare reduction on the minor and northern routes as well as route 3, of a 2 year fare freeze on the major routes while a review is conducted of BC Ferries and of Dangerous Cargo issues. John Hannah spoke of the disruption to the mail schedule of the current Dangerous Cargo schedule. A better arrangement is under consideration and needs to be quickly advanced. There are challenges with the Friday schedule as well. The retrofit of our ferry will take 8-9 weeks from mid-October to late December 2018.

Of the TIID, Keith reminded everyone of the Saturday April 28, 2018 Annual General Meeting at 11 AM, with elections and a vote on the Fire Hall renovations. He reviewed the plans for the meeting. Keith thanked TIRRA for the opportunity to report and Stu thanked him for the updates.

Treasurer's report

Ernie reported that the finances continue to follow a similar stable path as in previous years, with the new arrangements with the CVRD reducing our recycle hauling costs.

Solid Waste Management Committee report Ernie requested that the meeting increase the salaries of the two solid waste employees. Keith moved and Andy Lamb seconded: That the salary of solid waste employees be increased. Passed unanimously.

Welcome Committee report

Suzanne shared their hope to have a package by June that real estate agents can present to the new buyers upon completion of the purchase.

Transportation Committee report

Graeme summarized his online report with special mentions of the broom problem and of the alleged threat that the new highways contract may not include highway yards and/or employees on Thetis and other Gulf Islands. Islands Trust will be approached on this matter.

Trails Committee report

Claire read the report from Vicki Walker that is now online .

St Margaret's Cemetery report

Suzanne thanked everyone for avoiding the paths in the cemetery and spoke of plans to open new paths soon. She also mentioned the important workshop that makes St Margaret's a teaching site for a bioengineering workshop to be offered this fall by Nikki Wright and Sea Change. Dave Polster of Polster Environmental Services, a guru of bank restoration, will facilitate the workshop with on site training. He will help to develop a plan.

Bylaw Committee

Ernie spoke about the Bylaws and thanked Kathleen McIsaac for her assistance in preparing them. One spelling adjustment in Article XII and one in Article XIII, plus one adjustment to the format in Article VI, 12, c) and one in d) were noted before voting. Ernie moved and Jeannine Caldbeck seconded a motion: to adopt the bylaws as adjusted. Passed unanimously.

TIRRA 2018 elections

Stu explained that his desire was to move to the Past President role for the coming year.

The following Officers were elected without opposition

President Steve Frankel

Vice President Quentin Goodbody

Secretary Claire Hess

Treasurer Ernie Hunter

The following Committee Chairs were elected without opposition

Solid Waste Steve Frankel, Ernie Hunter

Transportation Graeme Shelford

Trails Vicki Walker  
Welcome Steve Frankel  
St Margaret's Cemetery Suzanne Sarioglu

Jeannine as Fire Chief, TIVFD, spoke to clear up the confusion some have regarding the Venting Index vs. the Air Quality Monitor. The Venting Index is predictive and predicts the height a column of Smoke will rise before it will mix to dissipate and it must reach a certain required height for outdoor burning to be initiated. The Air Quality Monitor measures air pollution in real time.

She also spoke of the broom-clearing goat project as an innovative way to clear highly flammable broom without cutting and burning, and also suggested chipping as another alternative to burning.

Fire Service forecasts are for a similar wildfire season as last year's, which was historically the most severe for fires. Fire Permits are required on Thetis starting on April 1st but islanders are still required to consult the Ministry of Environment's Venting Index prior to initiating a burn.

At 8:45 PM, Stu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeannine, supported by all.

Submitted,  
Claire Hess, Secretary