

Report from eSPOKES to TIRRA AGM, Saturday, September 12, 2020

We have dealt with complaints regarding too many ads from individuals and businesses. Another issue has been how to deal with statements from candidates for local office. A clear, published statement of practices, all in one place, is needed. Our committee developed the following consolidation of past statements:

Guidelines for Thetis Island eSPOKES

A committee of TIRRA, eSPOKES is a volunteer email service to share events and activities of Thetis Island and provide information on matters relating to community function. eSPOKES and TIRRA do not necessarily endorse the information distributed and recommend readers take what they like and leave the rest.

Any organization, business or individual operating on Thetis Island may advertise or send notices. Every notice must be relevant to Thetis Island. Usually the notice should be sent by a Thetis Island organization, resident and/or landowner.

All items must be signed. The signature related to an organization or business can be the name of an individual office holder with title attached or the name of the organization or of a recognized standing committee.

Notices are posted by managers only; managers are a volunteer committee appointed by TIRRA. Notices must be polite and relevant. Pictures can not be used. Long items (over 300 words) and pictures should be posted elsewhere and a link provided. Discussion or opinion pieces can not be included but links to them can be posted. Similarly, candidate statements should be a link to the information. When possible, the organization conducting the election should do a single post with a list of links.

Please remember that clarity and brevity are the most effective communicators.

An eSPOKES is published every day, so all submissions are checked once each day. Only in dire emergencies should the volunteers be contacted for more frequent service.

Manager volunteers may solicit notices but neither TIRRA nor eSPOKES can be responsible for finding and compiling notices or information. Managers may have to change the layout of items to fit the format or to clarify. Managers should not make material changes without returning the item to the sender for discussion.

Our volunteers, in the rush of trying to serve, may occasionally stretch one or more of these guidelines. Please respect the efforts made to serve you.

The eSPOKES team, a committee of TIRRA

Respectfully submitted

Claire Hess, eSPOKES Chair and volunteer