

MINUTES

Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association

General membership meeting

June 17, 2010, 7.30 p.m.
Forbes Community Hall

Total attendance: 21

MINUTES of March 18, 2010 Annual General Meeting and June 3, 2010 executive meeting were read by acting secretary Doreen Lilley, and adopted .

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Veronica Shelford, a director of the Thetis Island Community Association, said there is no immediate need for TIRRA to appoint representatives to TICA because there are no common issues between the two organizations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Galbraith highlighted TIRRA's financial details. The General Fund balance is \$8,156. Some 84 percent of TIRRA's members are signed on for garbage service. The Garbage Fund balance is \$11,800. While expenses are likely accurately projected, revenues are below expectations. Not anticipated was the harmonized sales tax of approximately \$800. Kevin said households that haven't paid their garbage fee will be contacted again.

In the discussion following the treasurer's report, Kevin was complimented for his excellent work. It was noted that TIRRA's garbage program, along with respectful residents, is largely responsible for the overall clean condition of the island. Because that's a benefit to all property owners, perhaps those who don't pay a garbage fee will be moved to make a donation to the garbage fund.

A motion by Jeannine Caldbeck to accept the treasurer's report was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Denis Gagnon reviewed his letter thanking Capernwray Bible Centre for its generous \$500 donation to TIRRA.

TRANSPORTATION

Graeme Shelford reported that he is scheduled to meet a provincial Highways official on Thetis to discuss six items related to roads and road safety.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

Ann Keir said a dog bag dispenser will be arriving in the next few days for use at the ferry dock. (Ann also noted that a Ferry Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 7.)

CEMETERY

Lorrie Wood reported that corrections to culverts that are causing erosion of the bank at the cemetery will be managed by Don Hunter, aided by cemetery committee members.

BYLAWS

President Ernie Hunter said a TIRRA bylaws review will likely be carried out this fall.

COMMUNITY TRAIL

Doreen Lilley said the trail is 'overgrown'; trail committee members will carry out necessary work this summer.

SANITATION

Steve Frankel presented a follow-up report to his AGM sanitation committee report. It highlighted garbage service information and issues. The new system of garbage disposal, recycle and returnable items has been in place for one year. The result: the sanitation yard is cleaner and 'less unsightly', the system is more efficient and well used, the 'free store' has been successful and community feedback has been mostly positive.

The committee and TIRRA have agreed to monitor the system and tackle various challenges, particularly costs, efficiency and user-acceptance of operation schedule. And the fact that some banned and recyclable items are still being inappropriately deposited in the garbage bins. Recycling costs account for 70 percent of expenses, compared to 30 percent for garbage removal. Costs could continue to increase unless volunteers come forward to help at the site. Steve asked whether members would 'support increasing the fees'? A full discussion by TIRRA members followed Steve's report. Topics included the use of a compactor to reduce garbage volume; the high cost of sorting recyclables; small revenue for some recycled metal; consideration of asking the Cowichan Valley Regional District to take over Thetis garbage collection management, funded by tax dollars; and the challenge of educating Thetis property owners and guests on responsible garbage and recycling. It was noted that Camp Columbia officials will meet with some TIRRA executives to review various waste disposal arrangements for the camp. Gail Sullivan, representing the camp, said it joins others in a desire to be good stewards of the island environment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Notice Board: Will Lennox who looks after the community notice board at the ferry dock said a 'disgusting array' of personal garbage was left on the ground near the board on a recent weekend. Because such abuse is encouraged by the presence of a waste can there, the membership voted to remove it. A policy to limit the number of 8 ½ by 11 inch notices to one per business was also approved. (Will also observed that a number of real estate signs were 'cluttering' the North Cove and Pilkey Point roadsides.)

Community Fund: The membership confirmed by unanimous vote the appointments of Ellen Rush and Tom Milliken to the Community Fund board, representing TIRRA. Further, a motion by Ernie Hunter to appoint Ellen Rush for another 2-year term to the Community Fund board was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8.55 p.m.