

MINUTES

Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association

General membership meeting

October 21, 2010, 7.30 p.m.
Forbes Community Hall

Total attendance: 9

MINUTES of June 17, 2010 General Meeting were read and adopted. Minutes of October 14, 2010 executive meeting were read by Denis Gagnon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Kevin Galbraith's absence, President Ernie Hunter highlighted TIRRA's financial details. Some 220 households have paid into the garbage fund so far this year, compared to 242 at the end of last year. Total 2010 garbage fund revenues stand at \$23,200, compared to \$21,700 for last year. The garbage fund balance on October 12 was \$2,277 and a projected year-end shortfall of approximately \$3,500. TIRRA's general fund balance is \$8,729. **A motion by Sanitation Chairman Steve Frankel to cover the garbage fund shortfall with general account funds was unanimously approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SANITATION

Members engaged in a full discussion of garbage issues, focusing on the treasurer's report that predicts next year's operating expenses will be \$26,500 (\$9,500 for regular garbage pick-up and \$17,000 for recycling services). Costs are increasing in part because of labour costs associated with increased garbage volume, the new harmonized sales tax, and new commercial trailer fees on BC Ferries. The one-year-old comprehensive service, including the busy recycling centre and popular 'free store', has been heartily welcomed by a majority of islanders, including a number of volunteer helpers. Sanitation Chair Steve Frankel said the improved service contributes to a cleaner island at a modest cost, compared to other communities. The ideal to have a 'zero-waste' community is being promoted by Islands Trust. **To cover anticipated expenses next year, a motion, by Doreen Lilley, to raise the annual household contribution to \$150 was unanimously approved.**

TRANSPORTATION

Chair Graeme Shelford said he met with Andy Newall, a provincial Highways supervisor, on Thetis to discuss items of roads and road safety. Graeme outlined various actions taken:

- 1 On the insufficient amount of new asphalt for Thetis roads this year, the allocation was 'stretched' so that 'all the worst areas were repaired.'
- 2 For several reasons, including the absence of enforceability, a mandatory 30 km/h speed limit won't be imposed on traffic in the vicinity of ferry line-up.
- 3 Instead of expensive concrete barriers, more road-edge reflectors have been placed near a 'drop-off' area on Moore Hill. Yellow lines
- 4 Yellow lines have been re-painted.
- 5 The province doesn't supply signs that warn of hidden driveways. 'If somebody builds a driveway in an awkward location, it is up to the owner, not the taxpayers, to put up a warning sign.'

CEMETERY

It was noted that Bill Sharp will replace Lorrie Wood on the committee.
Culvert upgrading is in progress.

COMMUNITY TRAIL

Doreen Lilley reported that the trail is in good shape, having received excellent maintenance work by a student in early fall. **Her motion to send an appropriate thank you letter was approved.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A report from the committee (Chair Ann Keir, Sue French and Chris Pegg) predicted that ‘unless the province increases its contributions, ferry users can expect a significant fare increase in 2012, or a reduction in service.’ Costs are rising because of the HST, carbon tax, aging vessels and other reasons. At the same time there hasn’t been an increase in provincial service fees. This is consistent with the Coastal Ferry Act whose objective is a user-pay system. This predicament will be discussed when Ferry Advisory Committee chairs meet with the Department of Transportation November 17.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustee Peter Luckham noted that an Islands Trust open house for the ongoing review of the Thetis Official Community Plan will be held November 10, 4 to 9 p.m., at the Community Hall. The review process is on schedule and should be completed by the end of next year, he said. Peter also mentioned riparian areas legislation, the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s burning bylaw, water zoning, and the future of the three institutional ‘camps’ on the island.

THANK YOUS

Members recognized and thanked Lon and Lorrie Wood – they are leaving Thetis in November – for their many years of selfless service to the Thetis Community. Further thanks were given to Veronica Shelford for producing the Quarterly, Claire Hess for managing E-spokes, and all the volunteers who helped with recycling.

The meeting adjourned at 9.10 p.m.