

Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association

Executive committee meeting
March 10, 2011, 7 p.m.
Forbes Community Hall

PRESENT

President Ernie Hunter
Vice President Steve Frankel
Transportation Graeme Shelford
Land use/Environment Ann Keir
Denis Gagnon, corresponding secretary
David Steen, recording secretary

MINUTES: A summary of the January 13, 2011 executive committee minutes were read and received by the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasury

In the absence of Treasurer Kevin Galbraith, Ernie Hunter presented highlights of TIRRA's financial status, prepared by Kevin. To date, some 160 households and other property owners have submitted their fees for this year. Although the deadline was January 31, it's expected that fees will continue to be received into the summer months. Ernie said it's too soon to know if there will be a reduction in memberships and garbage fund revenues resulting from the increase fee schedule this year. Last year some 222 households contributed to the garbage fund, only three fewer than the previous year (on an adjusted basis). So far this year, TIRRA has received notifications from more than 10 property owners declaring they won't be paying their garbage fees.

Sanitation

Steve Frankel said a meeting has tentatively been scheduled for later in March with CVRD Area G Director Mel Dorey to discuss financing Thetis' garbage program. The sanitation committee is comprised of Steve, Vicki Walker, Ken Youds and (ex officio) Ernie Hunter. Steve said long term financing of garbage collection and disposal, considered an 'essential service', is likely unsustainable under the current system. His committee's objective is to obtain adequate financial help from CVRD but maintain on-island control of the existing excellent service. At least 70 percent of TIRRA's garbage budget is for the handling of recyclables.

Transportation

Graeme Shelford noted that the Ministry of Highways removed four trees overhanging Pilkey Point Rd. atop Moore Hill. They were considered a hazard to traffic.

Ferries

Ann Keir reported that the next meeting of the Ferry Advisory Committee will be April 19. BC Ferries next four-year service contract will begin April 1 next year. She said Ferries' bid to move closer to a full 'user-pay' policy, with its attendant fare increases, is having a harmful effect on island communities. With a government that says 'people who chose to live on an island' should accept the added transportation costs, there's no relief in sight, she said.

OTHER BUSINESS

The committee discussed detailed changes to TIRRA's bylaws. A number of recommendations were approved and will be circulated to members prior to the Annual General Meeting on March 31. Because of the strict bylaw amendment process, any bylaw changes will be held over for confirmation at the TIRRA general meeting in June.

The meeting adjourned at 9.10 p.m.