

# Thetis Community Assembly: Minutes

Forbes Hall: April 15, 2024: 7PM to 9PM

## **Co-Facilitators**

Ann Dickie – TICA, Keith Rush – TIID

## **Organization Representatives at “Head Tables”**

Ann Eriksson – ThINC

Wendy Hinsperger – TIRRA Past President  
(Recorder)

Gord Prescott – TIRRA President

Tricia Hunter – TICF

Lynda Poirier – TIMA

David Reay – TIPC

Doug Fenton – ACT / IWG

Ellen Rush – TICA CEC

Michelle Sutter – FH Health Services

Peter Luckham – Islands Trust

Ellen Hrad – TIPA

Mary Des Chene – CCR (Community Climate Resilience)

Rodney Brownlee – Food Bank

Ann Eriksson – ThINC

Patrick Mooney – APC

Suzanne Sarioglu – St. Margaret’s Cemetery

## **Audience:**

Approximately 24 additional Community Members

## **AGENDA/MINUTES:**

**Welcome:** Ann Dickie called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Peter Luckham opened the proceedings with a Territorial Acknowledgement

Keith Rush introduced himself and Ann Dickie as the co-facilitators of the Assembly.

## **Updates:**

Wendy Hinsperger provided an **Infrastructure/Government Liaison Task Group** update:

At the January Assembly meeting we introduced the **Infrastructure/Government Liaison Task Group (IGL)** (Gord Prescott, Ann Dickie, David Reay, Keith Rush and Wendy Hinsperger). Optimism was high that the December meeting with CVRD Admin/Area G Director would further develop into action items for Thetis Island: capital funding assistance, inclusion in CVRD urban programs, consultation on community needs, local value return for taxes paid.

At an update meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>, we concluded we felt the December meeting was an to appease versus act. We will continue to pursue items in January minutes.

Wendy introduced Paul Duncan, joining the forum and the IGL to assist in providing analysis supporting our quest to find capital support and seek recognition for the tax contribution we make to all levels of government. Paul’s role will be “Benefits for Taxation Advisor”.

Paul spoke of his background and asked attendees to consider how we might work together to improve government responsiveness to our concerns through future actions. Getting behind the numbers is one aspect, but perhaps we need to become more mobilized and verbal as islanders, together. Paul will prepare report for the next meeting with line-by-line analysis property taxation: increases vs. inflation, etc.

Keith Rush provided a **Ferry Advisory Committee** update:

Crews now working 10 hours per shift, 7 on 7 off: driven by recruitment and retention issues  
Capital plans (Ferry dock replacement) will not be in next 5 years, therefore no newer/larger ferry on the horizon.

FAC members are now required to initiate all conversations through BC Ferries HQ vs local personnel which reduces responsiveness to issues.

Gord Prescott provided a **Road/Transportation** update:

Escalation of two issues for immediate attention: line painting and pothole repair.

MOTI was not responsiveness locally or HQ. Doug Routley (MLA) and his Assistant Sarah were contacted and have provided written commitment that line painting will be achieved this year.

Gord will continue to pursue MOTI for a site visit and a specific annual Thetis budget for maintenance issues versus islanders having to reach out to MOTI.

David Reay provided a **Port Commission** update:

CVRD assigned person for the Community Dock project was not being responsive or even consultative. This person has been replaced in terms of oversight of the project by Darcy Mooney (CVRD Operations Manager). David Slade one of TIPC Board Members is to be thanked for raising his concerns the process was flawed including safety, bids, work, plans and timeline. There is now a commitment from Darcy to provide the details for review by the TIPC board.

The project is now stalled as geological samples require analysis by the BC Archeological branch. Could be 1 to 2 months while the midden found at the site is assessed and appropriate measures taken to resolve. NOTE: Safety concerns at the Community Dock site have been escalated for attention.

Any questions from attendees for the above **Infrastructure** pieces?

Road edge and pathway work? Underway as an ad hoc Road Safety Work Group under TIRRA.

Active Transportation grants? Need CVRD, IT to apply on our behalf. The Transportation Chairperson position on TIRRA is vacant so resources are limited. Anyone interested in pursuing this stand-alone project?

Where does marine ambulance now come in? Still at Community Dock.

Access to dock for TI Emergency vehicles? Accommodations have been made to allow emergency services to utilize the dock during this project.

Rodney Brownlee provided background info on **Thetis Island Food Bank**:

This program is made possible through Harvest House in Chemainus. Volunteers from TI pick up groceries from Harvest House weekly and deliver to islanders in need. There are currently 12 people benefiting from the Food Bank.

Doug Fenton provided an update on **ACT (Anchorage Concerns Thetis)**:

In January Doug advised there was a new understanding by Transport Canada, after the South Coast Shipwatch Alliance met with Federal representatives: the new understanding is this is not just a west coast problem, but also is impacting residents near Atlantic ports. Although this will slow down the process, there is hope that the outcomes will be favourable in anchorage management, port planning and all the sundry issues for freighters in our waters. ACT - Per ACT's Jan 2024 update on the outcomes of the TC Transportation Committees hearings and changes to Bill 33.

Unfortunately, the Alliance is unable to share the information we have received, as it is still being kept in confidence at the parliamentary level.

Suzanne Sarioglu presented **St. Margaret's Cemetery** research on green burials:

Sites have been visited and information gathered by a group of volunteers (thank-you!) who are preparing a report for the May AGM. Once the presentation is ready, a community information session will be held.

Ann Eriksson provided updates on **ThINC** re current projects underway:

- Nature Stewards program: promotion of native habitats, cultural inclusion of Penelakut elders for advice: request a Nature Stewards visit to your property to learn more.
- Human Resource challenges will mean no summer/fall organized education and learning programs at the Portal. If you would like to share your expertise in a field relevant to nature around us, please reach out for discussion.
- Work still underway on Community Garden and People's Apothecary Garden, species counts, invasive ID and monitor programs.

Michelle Sutter provided update on **Forbes Hall Health Services:**

Reported continued successes in many programs.

Thank you, David Reay, for his grant and expertise sourcing to deliver the Advance Care Planning as well as Slips and Falls. Upcoming presentations on Electrical Safety for Homeowners and MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying)

In the planning Covid Clinic (May), Talk to your Pharmacist re Measles and RSV vaccines as they are not part of VIHA programs.

“Blue Zone” areas in world where living to 100 years of age is common: Similarities across those regions indicate strong correlation to: having a purpose in life, natural movement and activity, dietary with a plant-based slant and a strong social support system.

Nurse practitioner is working well: all great reports and a coup by Health Services team!

Ellen Rush provided updates re **TICA** membership and activities:

AGM Saturday April 20, 1PM. 4 vacant positions on the board [3 Two-year terms: 1 One-year remaining term]

Currently 338 TICA members representing 198 Households.

To be advised: Forbes Hall work party (spring cleaning)

Trisha Hunter provided information on **TICF (Thetis Island Community Fund)** Board:

TICF consists of 7 members. TICF sources appropriate board members on behalf of TI organizations. There are 2 members endorsed by TICA, 2 for TIRRA, 1 for TIPPA and 2 Board Appointees

Peter Luckham updated us on 3 items from a list of many re **Islands Trust:**

“The Raft” in and around our waters has been escalated to Coast Guard for attention. Owner is under pressure to disband, however, proving difficult. Pursuit of resolution will continue.

“Lot 88” still pursuing: in court, asking potentially for additional legal actions to promote removal and clean up with property lien for costs. Note: if by any chance you have items on the property it would be helpful for you to arrange removal now.

Abrupt Shellfish application turned down including temporary permits.

Shout out to Area G Director McClinton for sourcing funding for two fire-fighting water storage tanks on Ruxton.

Shout out Ian Ralston, for his work on a report which will assist provincial and local governments to establish regulations making composting toilets and liquid waste diversion possible.

Shout out: Telus Fibre is Finally here!

### **Regular Agenda Items:**

#### **Reconciliation:** Indigenous Working Group: Doug Fenton

Originally 6 members, now 9: reach out to join this group pursuing the development of a TI strategy to: learn about First Nations through their lens, consult Elders. This is an enormous task for education and learning within our Community promoting reconciliation through purposeful engagement and collaboration. Many island groups already developing outreach and programs to include our Penelakut neighbours.

#### **Climate Change** update by Mary Des Chene: Community Climate Resilience

Repair Fair at Forbes Hall, June 1<sup>st</sup>

Organization Survey of local groups to determine their climate change challenges, actions and ideas: will be coming soon, perhaps to include a presentation by CCR at your board meeting.

Group is developing a list of climate facts and guidelines: to help us think about our resilience during drier summers, wetter winters. How can we increase our resilience individually and as a community to improve our chances of diverting and our surviving a local disaster (fire, flood, sea rise, etc.)

### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### Member Forum:

Michelle Sutter asked organizations to consider moving AGMs 'til later in the year as they all seem to come in the spring.

#### **TABLED:**

The Assembly: Charter or similar  
Rotational Facilitators

Ann adjourned at 9:05 PM

**NEXT MEETING:** No specific date: September 2024

IWG Attachment