

Adopted May 5, 2010 with
amendments (depicted in
underlined/italicized font herein)

BOWEN ISLAND MUNICIPALITY

Minutes of the **Bowen Island Municipal Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting** held on Wednesday April 14, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Bowen Island Municipal Hall.

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Lalonde, Chair
Kim De Sante
Daniel Heald
Trish Jacquet
Bill Van Luven

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Alison Morse

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Erwin Smith
Gayle Ferguson – Minute Taker

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7: 20 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded

That the agenda for the April 14, 2010 Bowen Island Municipality Ferry Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of the Bowen Island Municipality Ferry Advisory Committee meeting held February 3, 2010 be adopted as amended:

Page 2, 3rd diamond change “*...vehicles overloaded due to ...*” to “*...vehicles overloaded was exacerbated due to...*”

Page 2, 3rd bullet change “*...*” *does not appear...*” to “*...indicates that there does not appear...*”

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.1 Overloads

The Chair noted he had received another e mail from Erwin Smith and reviewed the situation regarding overloads:

- New statistical data received indicates a drop in number of overloaded sailings from April 2009 – March 2010;
- Data also indicates declining use;
- Have received to date only one communication regarding overloads. There are certain ferries that are overloaded but what is the solution?

Erwin Smith noted he had written to David Hahn, BC Ferries regarding his frustration pertaining to overloads and had requested data related to overloads and sailings where there were near overloads.

Key comments/queries included:

- Suggestion to have programs or initiatives on island to get more people and fewer vehicles on the sailings. *Chair: is laudable but also means less revenue, which means higher fares. BC Ferries deny that fares are affecting use. We can add it to the meeting with BC Ferries in June;*
- Another possibility, suggested to BC Ferries, is increasing the capacity of Queen of Capilano with the installation of intermediate decks.

The Chair agreed to report back on the installation of intermediate decks and to continue to receive vehicle data as it occurs.

3.2 Snug Cove Information Sign

The Chair reported that he had spoken to Jason Bowen, Terminal Manger at Horseshoe Bay and Nanaimo, who indicated there were still some structural difficulties with the Snug Cove Information sign.

3.3 Over height Vehicle Charges

The Chair reported that as of April 1, 2010 BC Ferries had stopped charging for over height vehicles. Any vehicle longer than 20 feet was now to be charged at a commercial rate. Discussion followed regarding length-based pricing and the issue of charging a commercial rate for non commercial vehicles.

3.4 B.I. Municipality Age Friendly Report

The issue of access on the Queen of Capilano was deferred for discussion to the next meeting

3.5 Cut Off Times

The Chair believed that BC Ferries would not change their position regarding cut off times as it is a human safety issue. They are consistent in saying ten minutes for passengers and vehicles.

Key issues raised:

- Request BC Ferries for a 5 minute cut off for foot passengers;
- Larger principle here that people who pay the toll have no way to express concerns regarding service complaints;

- Affects only the 230 p.m. -6:30 p.m. sailings ferries ;
- Issue of refusing to sell a ticket when the sailing does not happen for another 15 minutes;
- Line up is inefficient would be good if the ticketing could be streamlined

The Committee agreed to add the request for a five minute cut off for foot passengers only to the June 2010, meeting agenda with BC Ferries.

Kim agreed to draft a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding the issue of no one to complain to, referencing the FACCs report and indicating the Committee's full support for the report.

The Chair agreed to ensure, once the letter has been reviewed by the Committee, that BC Ferries receive a copy.

Councillor Morse agreed to communicate the issue to the FACCs.

3.6 Early Sailing

The Chair noted that Peter King had indicated that once the bus schedule has been published, it will be adhered to and the bus will be better able to meet the five minute cut off time.

The Chair agreed to advise Peter to communicate with the bridge for any anticipated delays..

3.7 Highway Sign for Bowen

The Chair reported that he had written to Perry Dennis regarding the absence of Bowen Island on the Highway sign. Jason Bowman, BC Ferries had indicated the highway sign is a concern with lack of some locations on the sign and a better sign would indicate just "*BC Ferries*".

3.8 Ferry Marshalling

The Chair inquired regarding the status of the February 3, 2010 Committee's ferry marshalling recommendation to Council to provide capacity for two lane loading of vehicles.

Councillor Morse reported that the issue has been referred to the Planning Department but prior to options being presented by staff, Council needs to make a decision on the existing studies that have been done. Council had requested that the Transportation Working Group report be presented again to Council.

NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 Communications
- The Chair noted that the Committee had its first publication in January. He noted he will be responding the following:
- Vehicle location:
 - Some items to go on the June 28, 2010 meeting with BC Ferries;
 - Bicycle fares – ~~bicycles are free as of April 1, 2010 are still \$2.00. However, bicycle charges are still \$2.00, however,~~ if you use an experience card you get a \$2:00 rebate
 - Internet publication from Tim Rhodes
 - Forum posting regarding late ferry.
- 4.2 Islands Trust Letter
- The Committee received for information the letter from Islands Trust, dated February 9, 2010 regarding BC Ferries Governance review.
- 4.3 OCP Update
- Councillor Morse noted that on April 26, 2010 Council will be discussing some of the issues related to the OCP Update.
- 4.4 FAC/BCF Website
- The Chair reported that BC Ferries is producing a better website with FACC members listed.
- 4.5 Fuel Rebates
- The Chair noted there had been an announcement earlier regarding fuel rebates for last year.
- 4.6 Relationship with Council
- Regarding the role of staff liaison, Councillor Morse noted that Chris Buchanan, Assistant to the CAO reviewed upcoming Committee agendas and if there was a relevant issue would attend the Committee meeting.
- 4.8 Road Equivalent Tariff
- The Chair noted he had sent emails to members related to road equivalent tariffs. Scotland has a similar system and has set ferry fares on travelling equivalent distance by road. Ferry costs have gone up 80 % since 2004. The issue is being brought forward again by FACC. The real issue is the degree of subsidization and has been our argument for the last five years.
- 4.9 FACC/CCFAC Updates
- ~~Councillor Morse provided FACC/CCFAC updates:~~
- ~~• Focus was on education, collective agreement, operating requirements, cost of overtime,~~
 - ~~• Vessel replacements and related capital costs and sources of funding~~

- ~~Have to present report by September 30, 2010 for the next contract so continued fare increases~~
- ~~Realization there was not to be any huge savings to be had;~~
- ~~Next meeting September, 2010~~
- Transportation Safety Board report – has recommendation that a passenger manifest be required.

Councillor Morse provided a verbal report on the meeting held in March between the FACC, BCF, Ministry of Transportation staff and the Ferry Commission as follows:

- The focus of the session was on education:
- Items discussed included the collective agreement, operating requirements, cost of overtime, vessel replacements and related capital costs and sources of funding;
- BCF have to present report to the Ferry Commission by September 30, 2010 for the next contract term PT3, which will be based on the same service levels and same provincial service fee so expect continued fare increases;
- Realization there were not any huge savings to be easily had;
- Next meeting most likely in September, 2010.
Councilor Morse further noted that the March Report of the Transportation Safety Board has a recommendation that passenger manifests be required.”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next FAC Meeting

Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting on May 5, 2010