

Adopted on January 12, 2011**BOWEN ISLAND MUNICIPALITY**

Minutes of the **Bowen Island Municipal Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting** held on Wednesday December 2, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Bowen Island Municipal Hall.

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE Kim Desante, Chair
Bill Van Luven
Trish Jacquet

REGRETS Daniel Heald

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE Alison Morse

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE none

CALL TO ORDER The Chair called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA **It was Moved and Seconded**
That the agenda for the December 2, 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 September 1, 2010 be adopted as amended with the removal of "need" on the first line at 3.1.
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.1 Public Survey
The committee members discussed the potential survey questions. It was agreed that questions should focus on getting information related to the impact of the increasing fares. This information is relevant for the PT3 discussions that have started. Bill agreed to contact the Undercurrent about their offer of publishing the questions and to find out details and how much space might have. Bill also agreed to revamp the question with a goal of only one survey.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 BCF Communications:

a) re Transport Canada Inspections

All agreed that given the short notice that BCF had communicated well. The electronic sign helped. It was agreed that committee needed to raise the timing of the inspection with BCF no later than Sept each year to ensure adequate notice time

b) re refit

Discussion ensued about how the message was to get about the refit due to start at the beginning of January as well as the question of parking in HB and how the dangerous cargo would be dealt with. It was agreed that Kim would contact Darin, Public Relations BCF, to find out how BCF was planning to advertise the refit and would parking be available in BCF lots at HB at a reduced rate for Bowen residents as it had been in the past. Kim also agreed to ask BCF about any plans they had for dangerous cargo. Alison reminded everybody that there had been issues the last time especially with communications with the dangerous goods suppliers.

4.2 Independent complaint action mechanism

The committee discussed the memorandum from the BCF Commission re the complaint process and the information they had heard from BCF at the joint meeting in November. The committee agreed that a summary of complaints for a particular route should be made available to the FAC for that route, and that in order to get information on customer satisfaction by route that all routes should be surveyed not just select routes. It was noted that route 8 is not one of the routes presently included in the survey. The committee requested the Chair to write to the Ferry Commission to suggest that the above be part of the approved complaints process.

4.3 PT3 and impact on Bowen

Alison reviewed the process that would be followed for the development of the price caps and any changes to the service contract between BCF and the province for PT3. She noted that as required by the Coastal Ferry Act:

- BCF submitted its initial report to the Ferry Commission on September 30th,
- The Ferry Commission will deliver its preliminary ruling on the price caps for PT3 by March 31, 2011
- BCF and the Province will negotiate any changes to the terms of the Ferry Services Contract by June 30, 2011

- The Ferry Commission will deliver its final ruling on price caps for PT3 by September 30, 2011
- April 1, 2012 PT3 starts

She reminded everyone that the contract between the Province and BCF sets out the number of runs that must be provided for each route and the amount of money the province will contribute to the operation of those runs. This means that if the number of runs stays the same and the amount that the province pays stays the same the only way the increased costs of operating (wages, fuel, etc) and the costs of replacing the vessels in the minor route group can be covered is by increases to the fares. An initial review of the Sept submission indicates that these could be significant and higher than in past years.

4.4 Report on meeting with Ministry of Transportation

Alison reported on the meeting she attended between representatives off all the FAC's and Kirk Handrahan and Linda Petruzzelli of the Marine Branch for the Ministry of Transportation in Nanaimo on Nov 18th. She distributed the two papers "Ominous Clouds" and "Community Impacts of Escalating Ferry Fares" that the FAC group presented to and discussed with the ministry representatives and the press release that had been issued by the FAC group on Nov 30th. The report from BCF on possible efficiencies was also discussed at the meeting as well as the PT3 process. Some of the discussion related to how the province might gage the reaction of the individual communities to possible service cuts and the desire of the FAC's to see the cost savings reflected in smaller increases in fares rather than reductions in the service fee contributed by the province.

She noted that there had been good discussion about the issues with the ministry staff and thought the staff understood. She reminded everyone that at the end of the day the decision as to what the services should be and the amount of money the province contributes is a decision that is ultimately made by the politicians not the staff.

5. INFORMATION & ON TABLE ITEMS

The chair apologized to the committee for arriving off the 7:30 ferry due to circumstances beyond his control as a witness at an arbitration hearing. The committee noted that they had spent the time most productively discussing PT3.

6. NEXT MEETING

Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting on either Jan 5 or 12, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.