

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOTES**

September 9, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair
Ms. Joanne Coffey
Ms. Cathy Towers
Mr. Jamie Bolduc
Ms. Lisa Dahr

REGRETS: Mr. Richard McNeil
Mr. Gary Russell
Mr. Earl Brown
Mr. Tim Hosford
Mr. Derek Mathers
Mr. Robert Richards

STAFF: Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager of Animal Control and
Taxi and Limousine Services
Mr. Randolph Kinghorne
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre without quorum.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - August 12, 2010

This item was deferred.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

As there was no quorum, the Committee agreed to deal with what items they could.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Presentation - Ms. Amanda Jenkins

Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Solicitor, provided further information concerning the motion passed at the August 12, 2010 meeting to investigate appropriate wording in By-law T-108 to address the concerns brought forward by Ms. Amanda Jenkins regarding reasonable steps being taken to ensure that persons with disabilities arrive safely at their destination. He advised that he had been speaking with Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator of Taxi and Limousine Services, regarding this matter and they thought it would be best to tackle the issue through an education program which would bring these concerns to the attention of taxi drivers.

When asked what would be wrong with putting these instructions directly in the By-law, Mr. Kinghorne stated that it may not be a pragmatic request given the realities of the industry. He indicated that the majority of drivers already offer such assistance, therefore, there was no need to create a legal obligation. He advised that if certain drivers were not aware of the issues and concerns of persons with disabilities, a one page document could be made available to them. Mr. Kinghorne also noted that, from a legal perspective, it was difficult to define assistance.

The Chair suggested that the By-law could state that, for those who are physically challenged or visually impaired, the driver will make a reasonable effort to ensure they get to their door safely.

Ms. Coffey advised that Access-a-Bus only provides curb to curb service; noting that, in these situations, it all depends on the driver.

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager of Animal Control and Taxi and Limousine Services, advised that many people did not want assistance; noting that this was a grey area. She indicated that the By-law already instructs a driver to help if assistance is requested. From an enforcement perspective, she stated that the idea of 'reasonable effort' is, in fact, unenforceable.

Ms. Towers entered the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Kinghorne stated that the most important issue was driver awareness.

The Chair advised that it was not fair to put something in the By-law without awareness and wondered what could be put in the By-law to offer some support to the education piece.

Mr. Kinghorne advised that staff could draft a document which states that drivers are expected to take reasonable measure to ensure the safety of passengers; noting that such a statement would still be open to individual interpretation.

The Chair stated that while the awareness piece was a good idea; there needed to be follow up as well. He requested that staff work on the awareness piece and then attempt to find a way to incorporate something into the By-law.

Ms. MacDonald indicated that it would not be an issue to review an awareness piece with every driver. She also noted that staff already had a large amount of information available regarding awareness for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Kinghorne indicated that he and Mr. Hindle would investigate the wording and return with further information.

4.2 Roof Light Protocol

This item was deferred.

4.3 \$7.00 Station Wagon, Mini-Van Surcharge

This item was deferred.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Ms. Lisa Dahr, Manager, Partnerships and Professional Development, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS)

- Correspondence dated May 26, 2010 from Ms. Lisa Dahr, Manager, Partnerships and Professional Development, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia was before the Committee.

Ms. Dahr stated that a follow up meeting was occurring in reference to the submitted correspondence; noting that the issue began when TIANS received a call from an out of province visitor who was having difficulty obtaining an accessible vehicle while in the area. She stated that upon discussing this issue with drivers offering accessible service it became apparent that it is difficult for persons with disabilities to gain access. In closing, she indicated that TIANS was hoping to provide funding to two gentlemen in order for them to upgrade their vehicles to be more accessible.

Ms. Towers advised that there was now a third vehicle available for the upgrade. She stated that she tells drivers that if they have an accessible vehicle she will give them a licence for the airport.

Ms. Dahr stated that they were looking for reasonable access as needed as well as current available resources and information regarding existing service gaps. She advised that she would provide an update on this matter at the next meeting.

6.1.2 Ms. Darlene Grant Fiander, President, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS)

- Correspondence dated February 2, 2010 from Ms. Darlene Grant Fiander, President, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia was before the Committee.

The Chair advised that he would have information regarding this item at the next meeting.

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3. Presentations - None

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for October 14, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant