

**New Shoreham Commission on Motor Vehicles for Hire
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Tuesday, March 12, 2013
4:00 p.m.**

Present: Brad Marthens, Vincent J. McAloon, Connie LaRue and Geoffrey Lawrence. Monica Hull Shea was absent. Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

1. Consider MVFH ordinance and proposed Rules and Regulations

No action taken pending another meeting with the attorney.

2. Discuss and schedule next steps

No action was taken pending another meeting with the attorney.

3. Town Council request for advisory opinion on proposed amendment to MVFH ordinance

The Town Council received a request to amend the Motor Vehicles for Hire ordinance and forwarded it to the Commission for an advisory opinion. The amendment would add the following language to Section 8-164(b). *“In the event that a person on the waiting list dies prior to a license becoming available, the decedent’s legally married spouse shall be entitled to be placed on the list, at the same position, if within 30 days of the date of death they so notify the commission of this election, and further provided that the surviving spouse is otherwise qualified as set forth in subsection (c).”* Currently, a license may be transferred to a surviving spouse upon the death of a licensee, the amendment would extend that privilege to the waiting list. It was noted there has been no legal review of the amendment. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Marthens moved that the Commission is in agreement with the intent of the amendment because it extends a privilege to the waiting list that is already in place for licensees under the current ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lawrence.

Ayes: 4 (LaRue, Lawrence, Marthens, McAloon)

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Hull Shea)

4. Discuss and act on distribution of Division of Taxation Notice

The notice from the RI Division of Taxation explaining the new sales tax on taxi fares was distributed administratively to taxi and bus licensees for their information. The notice is attached to these minutes.

5. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2012

Mr. Lawrence moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2012, seconded by Ms. LaRue.

Ayes: 3(LaRue, Lawrence, Marthens)

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 (McAloon)

Absent: 1 (Hull Shea)

6. Notes of January 16, 2013 (for information only)

The Commission wants to hold discussions with the attorney regarding the following:

- The Commission wants to proceed with an ordinance amendment which would define a violation of the ordinance a violation of the regulations.
- Commission wants to discuss the married couples regulation with the attorney
- Commission wants to discuss the issue of chauffeurs children riding along in cabs
- Commission wanted to be sure no advertising is grandfathered. Questioned whether advertising inside the cab would also be regulated?
- Dress code: Commission wants to add to shirts: “no holes, rips or tears; no cut offs”
- Enforcement: Commission wants to discuss enforcement with attorney and clarify or expand the process. Could the MVFH hold the hearing and recommend sentencing in Warden’s Court rather than Superior Court or District Court?

- Concept for new regulation: Commission briefly discussed a new regulation for wait list which would require people on the wait list hold a chauffeurs license.

The Commission will coordinate with the Town attorney for their next meeting, it will be either 2:00 or 4:00 on April 17, 2013.

At 5:00 a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lawrence and seconded by Ms. LaRue.

Ayes: 4 (LaRue, Lawrence, Marthens, McAloon) Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Hull Shea)

Minutes approved (date)

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk