



**APPEALS STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 14, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Steve Adams, Chair  
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn  
Councillor Bill Karsten  
Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Councillor Matt Whitman

STAFF: Karen MacDonald, Senior Solicitor  
Tanya Phillips, Manager, By-law Standards  
Sally Christie, Supervisor Regional Licensing  
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 17, 2019**

MOVED by Councillor walker, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the minutes of January 17, 2019 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

**8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received for item 12.3.1 and was circulated to all members of the Committee.

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**12. REPORTS**

**12.1 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES: APPEALS – NONE**

**12.2 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES: DEMOLITIONS**

**12.2.1 Case 319308 (PID 00648287) Property located at Smith Road, Bedford**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 5, 2019

Karen MacDonald, Senior Solicitor, briefly addressed the Committee on this item. There is an adjacent lot with an unresolved access easement issue to which HRM is a party. Karen MacDonald suggested to the Committee that it might want to consider deferring this item until the associated legal matter pertaining to the adjacent property is resolved.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Appeals Standing Committee defer consideration of Case 319308 (PID 00648287) Property located at Smith Road, Bedford until the resolution of the associated legal matter.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.3 TAXIS, ACCESSIBLE TAXIS AND LIMOUSINES: APPEALS**

**12.3.1 Appeal of Seyed Abolghasem Sadat Lavasani, Suspension of Taxi Driver License #R250**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 4, 2019
- Correspondence received from David W. Buffett, Doug Kraus and Mel Boutilier

Sally Christie, Supervisor of Regional Licensing, presented the appeal and answered questions of clarification for the Committee. Staff clarified for the Committee that there was no information before the Committee other than that the appellant has been charged with sexual assault and that the crown has sufficient evidence to have laid a charge to be heard in the Supreme Court. Staff does not have information as to when the charge is scheduled to be heard.

The appellant addressed the Committee and answered questions of clarification for members. The appellant stated that they are a Canadian citizen residing in Halifax for the last ten years. The appellant worked for the last four years as a taxi driver in Halifax. The appellant asserted that they were always courteous and polite with their customers, often helped them load and unload goods, and never argued with customers over meter fares. The appellant asserted that they often gave people with limited incomes free rides. Prior to working in Halifax, the appellant took courses to recognize the appellant's professional certifications in Canada, but the appellant's age limited the appellant's ability to secure professional employment opportunities. The appellant asserted that taxi driving is the only employment currently available to the appellant. The appellant stated they are willing to install a camera and limit work to daytime hours going forward. The appellant could not provide information to the Committee regarding when the charge is scheduled to be heard but indicated the appellant's lawyer was present to answer questions.

The Committee discussed the serious nature of the charge and the importance of protecting public safety.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT the Appeals Standing Committee allow the appeal of Seyed Abolghasem Sadat Lavasani**

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED**

**13. MOTIONS – NONE**

**14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE**

**15. ADDED ITEMS**

**16. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – March 14, 10:00 a.m. Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel  
Legislative Assistant