

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

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2019-2021 TERM REPORT LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Item 1: CHANGES TO CHAPTER 2.50—ETHICS ORDINANCES (RTC 8/3/20)

The Committee held 4 meetings and one public hearing (all Zoom access only) in the course of reviewing and revising the ordinance changes submitted by the Ethics Commission. At least one member of the Ethics Commission was in attendance at all meetings and the public hearing. Town Attorney Robert Avena provided legal assistance throughout the process.

Aug. 26, 2020 Committee Meeting: Ethics Commission Chair Martin Zeldis gave an overview of the lengthy review process in the Commission's first major update in nearly 30 years.

Sept. 17, 2020 Committee Meeting: Committee reviewed Draft #2 and posed several legal questions to Attorney Avena regarding citations, inclusion of a newly created complaint form, the impact of proposed elimination of staggered terms and the unusual effective date language.

Nov. 23, 2020 Committee Meeting: Based on legal advice, relevant changes to Draft #3 made, including restoration of original language on staggered terms with the addition of original start date to ensure consistent appointment scheduling.

Dec. 2, 2020 Public Hearing: One speaker: John. W. (Bill) Sheehan, author of the original ordinances written in 1992 and based on state statutes at the time.

Dec. 2, 2020 Committee meeting: Committee voted unanimously to report out this item and recommend that RTM approve the proposed changes, which strengthen the language within the code of ethics, definitions, and purpose; clarify the operating procedures; and make the process more accessible for individuals who wish to file a complaint.

Note: All meeting minutes available online at waterfordct.org/representative-town-meeting and include the drafts and final recommended version of the new Ethics Commission ordinances.

Dec. 7. 2020 RTM meeting (Zoom access only): The RTM voted unanimously to approve the changes to the ordinances in Chapter 2.50-Ethics Commission, as presented by the Committee.

Item 2: CHAPTER 2.38 – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (RTC 10/4/21)

At its final meeting of the 2019-21 term, the RTM referred to the L&A committee a request to review the need for an Information Technology Committee (established in Chapter 2.38 of the ordinances) in light of the recent decisions by the Town and the Board of Education, to hire IT Directors and establish IT departments. (See RTM Oct. 4, 2020, minutes for copy of request letter.)

Submitted by
Susan Driscoll, L&A Chair