

ETHICS COMMISSION
Regular Business Meeting
MINUTES
October 21, 2020

RECEIVED OCT 27 2020
2020 OCT 27 AM 8:52

Page 1

Call to Order:

The October 21, 2020 Regular Business Meeting of the Ethics Commission, conducted on Zoom, was called to order at 7:05 PM by Marty Zeldis, Chairman.

Technology Presence: Marty Zeldis, Steve Garvin, Mark Burnham, Betsy Ritter

Excused: Olga Bush, Cindy Hersom, Laurie Wolfley

Guest: Susan Driscoll, L&A Committee Chair

Approval of Minutes:

B. Ritter moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 15, 2020 Regular Meeting. M. Burnham seconded. The minutes as written were accepted unanimously. (4-0)

Review of Correspondence

No new correspondence to date

Old Business:

Review of:

Items 5a-5b

M. Zeldis, Chairman began the review of the recent meetings on the revised Code with a welcome to the Commission's guest, Susan Driscoll the L&A Committee Chair.

S. Driscoll began the discussion with an explanation related to the Violation Form and its inclusion in the Ethics Code. The Town Attorney, Rob Avena, has been consulted as to the best way to introduce the new form to the complaint procedure for an allegation of Code violation. The said form may not be included as part of the revised Ethics Code. The L & A Committee may need to amend the wording of Section 2.50.070 to reflect its existence and location. Members of the Commission agreed to the possible change with an understanding that the form was not a mandatory requirement for a Code violation submission. S. Driscoll stated the L & A Committee will have a follow up meeting with Atty Avena for a final rule.

In addition to the above modification, three other possible changes to the form or Code may be made. Atty Avena is researching the use of the office "Commissioner of Deeds" as a viable witness to the complaint and the designation of the Town of Waterford will be added to the "town clerk" portion. A legal question pertaining to the dates of "publication in a newspaper" after the RTM vote will be investigated. A descriptive timeframe for publication may replace the

ETHICS COMMISSION
Regular Business Meeting
MINUTES
October 21, 2020

Page 2

original wording. S Driscoll explained that the online version of the Ethics Code 2.50 revision will be maintained by a pop up box with the clarification of recent amendments to any user before a final draft is entered.

Finally, Chairperson Driscoll discussed language in Section B of 2.50.040 which contains the terms of Commission members. Atty Avena has been advised of a need for clarification to sharpen exsisting statements which may be confusing.

New Business:

Item 6a – 6b:

Chairperson Driscoll described the process for the revised Ethics Code approval with a tentative date of the December RTM Meeting – 12/7/20.

M. Zeldis asked for comments or questions. Zeldis commented that some Commission members will be present at subsequent L&A Committee meetings.

Item 6c:

Regular Commission Meeting dates for 2021 – third Wednesday of the month on a quarterly basis starting in January. January 20, April 21, July 21, October 20.

A motion was made by B Ritter to accept the meeting dates of 2021 to be held as stated. Seconded by M. Burnham. Unanimous (4-0).

Adjournment:

At 7:53 PM S. Garvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by B. Ritter. Unanimous decision (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey M. Tynan
Recording Secretary