

Ethics Committee
Special Meeting February 28, 2019
Town Offices 7:00 PM Meeting Room One

Ethics Committee (EC) Attendees: Lee Suskin, Chair, Mike Ashooh, Bill Deming, Gwen Webster, Pete Gadue, Cate Cross, and Diana Vachon, Clerk
Not Present: Vice-Chair Tom Little

Member of the Public Present: Tom Zenaty

- **Call to order** at 7:06 PM
- **Review and Approval of the Agenda for February 28, 2019** The agenda was unanimously approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:** On motion of Bill Deming, seconded by Mike Ashooh, the Committee approved the minutes from January 30, 2019. Ms. Webster and Ms. Cross abstained.
- **Opportunity to Disclose Conflicts of Interest:** Hearing none, the Committee moved on to the next agenda item.

Public Participation and Comments: Tom Zenaty commented that he had contacted Lee Krohn to obtain an application to become a member of the Ethics Committee.

- **Welcome Cate Cross as Alternate:** The Chair welcomed Ms. Cross to the Committee and asked Cate to introduce herself. Ms. Cross provided family, work, and volunteer service background. The Committee thanked Cate for her service to the community,
- **Committee Member Reappointment:** The Chair read a letter from Lee Krohn notifying all CBC Chairs that the Selectboard has extended the terms of service for all CBC members for one full year. Lee Krohn asked the Chairs to check with all of their committee members to determine their interest in continuing to serve. Mr. Little has already indicated his interest in continuing. Mr. Deming, Ms. Webster, Mr. Gadue, and Ms. Cross expressed their interest in continuing to serve. Mr. Suskin indicated his interest in not continuing to serve. Mr. Ashooh stated that he would not be interested in serving if he is elected to the Selectboard. The Committee expressed its support for having a second lawyer join the Committee once Lee leaves.

Mr. Deming moved that the Chair write a letter to the Selectboard recommending that the alternates on the Committee become full members and that the Selectboard appoint alternates to the Committee. Mr. Ashooh

seconded. Lee recused from the matter because of a personal conflict of interest: his close relationship with the current alternates did not permit him to be neutral on whether they should be selected. Mr. Cross and Mr. Gadue also recused themselves because of their personal conflicts of interest. The motion passed 3-0. The Chair asked the Clerk to prepare a letter informing the Selectboard of the Committee vote.

- **Future Activities:** The Committee discussed future activities, as contemplated and authorized by the recently adopted Ordinance:
 - Education of CBCs, with a focus on education of quasi-judicial bodies. It was suggested that persons providing the education pilot test their program. Committee members who provide training may need to recuse from any complaint filed if the training included matters that are the subject of the complaint.
 - Development of a process for requesting/providing mediation.
 - Collaboration with the Selectboard on developing a disclosure and compliance certificate form.

8. Other Business:

- The Chair notified the Committee that Jeff Pauza had written him asking for further clarification of the Committee's recent decision, asking: "Why was recusal appropriate and is it still?" The Chair stated that he had spoken with Mr. Pauza, saying that he could not speak for the Committee, but that he did not know of any process for asking for clarification or reconsideration of the decision. He told Mr. Pauza to let him know if he would like to make this request to the Committee or if he would like the Committee to authorize appointment of a member to provide "oral information" on the matter to him. Mr. Pauza said that he would think about it and let the Chair know if he wanted to pursue the matter with the Committee. Mr. Pauza has not done so.
- The Committee acknowledge the likelihood that Mr. Ashooh would be elected to the Selectboard, making this Mike's last meeting on the Committee. Members thanked Mike for his service and contributions to the promoting ethical behavior for Town public officials.

- 9. Adjournment:** On motion of Mr. Gadue, seconded by Mr. Suskin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Vachon, Clerk of the Committee