

Ethics Commission Minutes Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 14th, 2012 7:00PM
Windham Town Hall Break Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Members in attendance were Chair Lary, M. Sikoski, H. Crane, and K. Gagnon.
2. There were no citizens/delegations.
3. The minutes were approved in a unanimous vote, with Sikoski making the motion to approve, and Crane seconding.
4. Discussion, possible action
Lary gave a synopsis of his efforts to fill seats of many open positions.
Gagnon feels this is not an ethics item agenda.
Sikoski stated this item should only be introduced as it applies to filling empty Ethics Commission seats.

Lary told Commission D. Niles of Charter Revision Commission is open to wording to allow alternates on Ethics Commission. Sikoski questioned whether state law allows alternates? If so, no need to go to Revision Commission. All the Ethics Committee would need is to word it into our proposed code. Sikoski will find state statute regarding this issue. Sikoski made a motion to add for the allowance of two alternates not of the same party affiliation, to serve a term of two years. Crane seconded. It passed on a unanimous vote.

Lary received opinions from Atty. Cody via Town Clerk's office regarding holding onto documents if probable cause not found. Questions left mostly unresolved. Sikoski stated that complaint is not public record until it is deemed to be probable cause, therefore, no need to hold onto such document if probable cause not found.

Gagnon stated, that upon further review, no longer liked the sealed envelope to go directly to Chair. She feels that there are no checks/balances with this method of receiving a complaint. Crane approves of sealed envelope method of receiving complaint. Sikoski motioned to approve that an addition be made to our code, stating,
"However, if an envelope is marked Ethics, such envelope is to remain unopened, stamped by the Town Clerk's Office as having received such letter, placed in another envelope, and mailed certified mail to the Chair."
Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed, 2-1-1, with Sikoski and

Crane voting for the motion. Gagnon voted against, and Lary abstained.

6. Other new business

Lary announced to the Committee that he is running for office as a petitioning candidate, and will be stepping down as Chair soon. He wants to avoid any appearance of a potential conflict. Lary spoke with the Commission as to whether continue on the Committee as a regular member, and having Vice-Chair Sikoski run future meetings, and set the agenda, to abstain on any complaints until elections, or to step aside completely.

7. A special meeting will be called to allow for inclusion to our proposed code, dealing with alternates, and receipt of a sealed envelope complaint.

8. There were no citizens/delegations.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kessenia K. Gagnon, Chair