

Town of New Durham, Board of Ethics

Date: 7/11/2013

Present: D.Veisl, Chair; M. Haley, secretary; Carol Allen, vice-chair; Ellen Phillips, Joan Swenson

Call to Order at 7:05

Topic	Discussion	Follow-up
Public Input	None	None needed
Minutes of March 26, 2013	Discovered that previous acceptance of minutes was incorrect. Revoted, with M.Haley and J. Swenson abstaining. Motion to accept by E. Phillips, seconded by C. Allen, passed	None
Minutes of April 9, 2013	Discovered that previous acceptance of minutes was incorrect. Revoted, with M.Haley and J. Swenson abstaining. Corrections to reflect that C. Allen is nominated as Vice Chair, M. Haley as Secretary. Ellen Phillips moves to accept the minutes with corrections, C. Allen seconds, passed.	None
Minutes of May 14, 2013	Copies not available to all members, will review at next meeting.	M. Haley will bring copies for all.
Old Business	M.Haley sworn in by Carol Ingham	None
Old Business	Knowing the Territory, Conflict of Interest,	Distributed to all but Dot Viesl,

	<p><u>Disqualification and the Local Land Use Board Decision Making Process, Ethics for Land Use Board Members Books.</u> Town administrator has been able to provide 4 copies to this committee for use.</p>	<p>who will share access with Carol Allen.</p>
<p>Educational topics for future presentation</p>	<p>Fair and Equal Treatment E. Phillips brought forth the New Durham Ethics Policy and lengthy discussion followed. All agreed that the <i>intent</i> of the policy is good, but that the verbiage could be misinterpreted, and this committee should consider other wording that would eliminate any possible confusion. The sentence in question "No public servant shall in the course of their official duties give or deny any person special consideration, advantage or treatment as a result of the person's public status, position, sex, race, religion, creed, sexual orientation or national origin". There is possibility that this could be confused with DOL individual rights, when the intent of the ethics policy is to ensure public officials do not grant privileges unfairly. Lively debate ensued about adding more definition to the the list of possible discrimination possibilities, vs. shortening the sentence to just read "No public servant shall in the course of their</p>	<p>All need to give thoughtful consideration before definitive action, as this is a major change and requires Town Official approval to effect permanent change.</p>

	<p>official duties give or deny any person special consideration, advantage or treatment". M. Haley would like the grammar corrected as well (singular and plural terms are in use in the sentence).</p> <p>E. Phillips presented the example of "fair and equal treatment" by using an illustration of two local citizens running for public office. She provides the scene of a rainy day, the first candidate asked to have the barricade moved under a covered area. His request is denied and he is asked to comply with regulations requiring him to remain behind said barricade, in the rain. The second candidate, a locally well-known citizen, later asks to have the barricade moved such that it is now under a covered area, and that request is honored. The first candidate complains that because his political views are not the same as the person in charge of the barricade, and as he is not as well known in the community as the second candidate, he asserts that he has been denied fair and equal treatment.</p> <p>After much discussion, all feel that perhaps a re-write of the scenario will probably make it</p>	<p>Joan Swenson has some thoughts on how to make this more clear, and will bring to next meeting.</p>
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	clear and this can be a viable example of the fair and equal treatment section.	
New Business	Joan Swenson application for service on the Ethics Committee and has passed the Selectman approval process. She will contact Town Authority to be sworn in before next meeting. Warm welcome to Ms. Swenson.	By Ms. Swenson
Next meeting	To be held September 10, 2013, 7PM at the Library.	Ms. Allen to provide information about nepotism as relates to the future ethics educational program.
Adjournment, 8:10 PM	Motion by CA, seconded M. Haley. Passed.	Respectfully Submitted, Monica Haley