

**DURHAM ETHICS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2016**

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Brenda Cowett and roll was called. Present were Judy Bahr, Brenda Cowett, Chet Raczka, Clark Kearney, and Linda Maffei. Deb Proctor and Noel Higgins were absent.
- 2. Seating of Alternates.** Judy Bahr was seated for Deb Proctor and Chet Raczka was seated for Noel Higgins. Brenda Cowett noted that while researching what constitutes a quorum in Roberts Rules, she discovered that, since there are no stipulations in the Code of Ethics as to a quorum, it shall be a majority of the members present. Linda Maffei stated that, in communications with Town Hall, she was informed that alternates need not be the same party affiliation as the absent member.
- 3. Approval of Agenda.** On a motion by Clark Kearney, seconded by Judy Bahr, the Agenda was approved unanimously.
- 4. Approval of Ethics Commission Minutes of November 24, 2015.** On a motion by Linda Maffei, seconded by Clark Kearney, the Minutes from November 24, 2015 were approved unanimously.
- 5. Discussion of Ethics Commission matters.** Brenda Cowett stated that she submitted the budget for the Ethics Commission for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year to Town Hall for approval. It consists of \$50.00. She also said that she received a bill from the post office for our box there in the amount of \$50.00, which she submitted to Town Hall for payment, although this expenditure belongs to the 2015- 2016 budget.
- 6. Old Business.** The DEC discussed the Economic Strategic Development Plan, and whether there was any effect on the Ethics Commission. It was agreed that there was none, so the DEC will not submit any comments or requests.
- 7. New Business.** Clark Kearney stated that he is joining the Republican Town Committee. Although that committee is a political association, and not one directly associated with the town, when he contacted Town Hall he was told that there was an ordinance which would not allow him to serve on the DEC and belong to the political committee. No one was able to locate the ordinance during the meeting, so Brenda Cowett volunteered to contact the First Selectmen, and Kim Garvis for clarification. It was noted that, if true, the DEC would lose at least three members.
- 8. Public Comment.** There were no members of the public present.
- 9. Next Meeting Date.** The next DEC meeting will be February 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Activity Room of the Library.
- 10. Adjourn.** On a motion by Clark Kearney, seconded by Chet Raczka, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Maffei, Secretary