

Received: February 24, 2016  
9:00 am  
Office of the Town Clerk

**DURHAM ETHICS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 23, 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, Claudia White, and Linda Maffei. Deb Proctor, Clark Kearney, and Noel Higgins were absent.

**2. Seating of Alternates.** Judy Bahr was seated for Noel Higgins, Claudia White for Deb Proctor, and Chet Raczka for Clark Kearney.

**3. Approval of Agenda.** On a motion by Judy Bahr, seconded by Chet Raczka, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

**4. Approval of Ethics Commission Minutes of January 26, 2016.** Brenda Cowett stated that the minutes were not correct with respect to the discussion of the seating of alternates (Item #2). She said that a quorum exists when there are “a majority of the commission composition” not a majority of members present. With that correction, on a motion by Linda Maffei, seconded by Judy Bahr, the minutes from January 26, 2016 were approved unanimously.

**5. Discussion of Ethics Commission matters.** Brenda Cowett stated that she researched the Town Ordinance after the January meeting, and located Article III, “Boards, Commissions, and Committees”, Division 4, “Ethics Commission”, § 2-122 (b), “Administrative provisions”, which states “No commission member shall be a current member of any party’s Town committee.” She also stated that the DEC does not have the authority to remove a commission member. Chet Raczka stated that he has been a long time member of the Republican Town Committee, and will contact the First Selectman and request that she remove him from the DEC.

**6. Old Business.** None.

**7. New Business.** Brenda Cowett reported that there has been no mail in the post office box.

**8. Public Comment.** There were no members of the public present.

**9. Next Meeting Date.** The next DEC meeting will be March 29, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Activity Room of the Library.

**10. Adjourn.** On a motion by Chet Raczka, seconded by Linda Maffei, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Maffei, Secretary