

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk March 30, 2016 10:50am
DURHAM ETHICS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 29, 2016

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Brenda Cowett and roll was called. Present were Brenda Cowett, Noel Higgins, Deb Proctor, Claudia White, and Linda Maffei. Judy Bahr and Clark Kearney were absent.

2. Seating of Alternates. Claudia White was seated for Clark Kearney.

3. Approval of Agenda. On a motion by Noel Higgins, seconded by Claudia White, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Ethics Commission Minutes of February 23, 2016. On a motion by Claudia White, seconded by Linda Maffei, the minutes from February 23, 2016 were approved. Abstaining were Deb Proctor and Noel Higgins, who had not attended that meeting.

5. Discussion of Ethics Commission matters. Brenda Cowett stated that she emailed the First Selectmen regarding vacancies, both current and upcoming, on the Ethics Commission. Chet Raczka resigned his position on the Ethics Commission, effective immediately.

Brenda Cowett announced that she picked up an envelope for the DEC at the mail box in Town Hall, which contained a complaint, which is numbered Complaint 2016.1. On a motion by Brenda Cowett and seconded by Deb Proctor, the DEC went into executive session to consider and discuss the complaint at 7:20 PM. Members going into executive session were Brenda Cowett, Noel Higgins, Deb Proctor, Claudia White, and Linda Maffei. Executive session ended at 7:53 PM, and the same individuals returned to the regular meeting session.

Brenda Cowett made a motion that Complaint 2016.1 did not meet the criteria of Section 5, B, (2) of the Code of Ethics, which states "Whether the act(s) alleged in the complaint, if proven, would constitute a violation of the Code". The motion was seconded by Deb Proctor. The vote in approval was unanimous. Brenda Cowett will send a letter to the Complainant stating the conclusion of the DEC.

6. Old Business. None.

7. New Business. Brenda Cowett asked if we can discuss, at a future meeting, the need to have a post office box for the Ethics Commission. Claudia White said that she believed the town website has the post office box listed there as a point of contact.

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

9. Next Meeting Date. The next DEC meeting will be April 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Activity Room of the Library.

10. Adjourn. On a motion by Noel Higgins, seconded by Linda Maffei, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Maffei, Secretary