

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
June 10, 2015
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman; E. Malavasi

Also Present: P. Gourlie; L. Branscombe; W. Bellows; T. Tarbox and L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.
2. Ethics Commission Discussion: Mr. Walter thanked everyone for coming to the meeting this evening. He asked all applicants if they had been provided with a copy of the Code of Ethical Conduct and if anyone had any questions regarding the policy. Mr. Walter explained that the Code of Ethical Conduct was adopted in 2008 but the committee was not established at that time. He noted that the policy dictates that the Commission shall consist of five (5) members for a term of three (3) years with staggered initial appointments. There are currently seven (7) applicants for the commission. Mr. Walter noted that he would call on each applicant present to speak to the board regarding their qualifications.

Pamela Gourlie – Ms. Gourlie noted that she is currently serving a three (3) year appointment on a Grievance Committee for the State of Connecticut which makes assessments of grievances against attorneys to be rejected or passed along to the next level of review. She has 30 years of management experience running a medical office. She served for twelve (12) years on the Board of Education (ending in 2007) with five (5) of those years as its chairman. During her service on the BOE she also served as member and chairman on the Finance and LEARN sub-committees. She has also served on the boards of the Waterford Association and Land Trust. She noted that she feels she has a clear understanding of what ethics are and has a talent for bringing groups of people together. In response to question from Mr. Malavasi Ms. Gourlie responded that she has a BS degree from UCONN and has taken some masters courses.

Lynn Branscombe – Ms. Branscombe noted that she has worked for a law firm for 27 years dealing with civil litigation. She explained that she is aware of how to manage clients and confidential subjects. She moved to East Haddam in 2013 and is looking to get involved in town business. She commented that she felt it was important that this commission be staffed. In response to question from Mr. Malavasi Ms. Branscombe responded that she has a BS degree from art school.

Warren Bellows - Mr. Bellows noted that he has lived in town for 25 years and has raised 3 children here. He is a US navy veteran and a graduate of the nuclear power program at Connecticut Yankee. He is currently employed as a procedure writer at Millstone Power Station. He commented that he has a good command of the written language with much experience in a rule based environment. He has held the post of Commander of the local VFW for the last 10 years. He noted that he is a high school graduate with no college degree.

Thomas Tarbox – Mr. Tarbox defined the definition of ethics. He explained it was doing what was right in the absence of rules, laws and procedures. He noted that he is a former navy man and has served on the Conservation Commission and as president of the Westchester Ski Club. He added that he has a BS degree from the state university system and has lived in town since 2002. Mr. Walter asked if Mr. Tarbox had any previous concerns with any other areas of the town. Mr. Tarbox replied that he did not and felt he was open minded.

Mr. Walter noted that he appreciated the applicants coming out and giving the board their backgrounds. He then asked if the applicants wished to ask any questions of the board.

Ms. Gourlie asked how often would the commission meet? It was noted that the commission would need to meet as needed based on the complaints received and follow the guidelines for investigation procedures, Time Limits, Notice and Hearings as prescribed in the Code of Ethical Conduct. Should there be no complaints received the committee should meet at least annually in order to provide a report to the Board of Selectmen summarizing the activities of the commission.

Ms. Branscombe asked how many complaints have been received in the past. The board responded that there are been no complaints previously submitted but the board has been made aware of a potential complaint that might be filed.

Mr. Tarbox asked if it was ethical for the president of the Land Trust to also be chairman of the Conservation Commission. The board noted that they were not aware of any conflict of interest as the Land Trust was a private organization but that would be something the Ethics Commission could investigate.

3. Public Comment: There was not public comment.
4. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Malavasi, seconded by Mr. Walter, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary