

DRAFT MINUTES

Board of Ethics
December 2, 2010

Members Present: Nancy Arnold, Anthony Fappiano, Jeffrey Beatty, Ken Wilson and Fred
Brisbois

Staff Present: Sarah Judge, Secretary of Record

***NOTE: Please be advised that at this time the following are strictly "Draft Minutes" until approved by the Board of Ethics*
Once approved the minutes will be marked as "Approved Minutes" and will be available in the clerk's office or upon request.**

The meeting opened at 4:31pm

Approval of November 2, 2010 minutes:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commissioner Wilson it is voted to approve the November, 2010 minutes as amended.

Public Forum:

n/a

Discuss potential revisions to existing code of ethics:

Review of discussion from the prior meeting.

-keep any changes in draft form and then review.

31-5 Prohibited Acts

-discussion of new heading

Commissioner Benson – perhaps Prohibited Activity or Behavior?

Commissioner Fappiano – if we call it that, it may limit it. We need a ‘catch all.’

Commissioner Brisbois – that wording may be interpreted as limited to only those things.

Commissioner Wilson – maybe we could add another section that includes ‘other.’

31-1 Establishment; Purpose & 31-2 Applicability

-review and discussion of handout of Darien's Code pertaining to these sections

-maybe incorporate parts of Darien's code?

Commissioner Benson- I think we should add headings for all sections for easier reference.

31-5 Prohibited Activity

A. Conflict of Interest

Commissioner Fappiano – how do we define nominal vs. substantial?

Commissioner Benson – I think we should leave it to the judgment of the Board rather than giving a dollar amount.

Commissioner Wilson – I like the headers and breakdown for clarification, it is clear and concise. I noticed other Town's Codes did this.

Commissioner Arnold – what is the process? If we make changes and approve, does it go to the Selectmen?
Yes.

B. Use of Town Property

-keep as is

C. Impartiality

-keep as is

D. Confidentiality

-this relates to Town employees

-add 'an obligation to remain in perpetuity'.

Commissioner Fappiano – we need to discuss how our meetings deal with confidentiality via the minutes at some point.

E. Prohibited Gifts/Prohibited Compensation

Commissioner Benson – should we add the word 'money?'

Commissioner Arnold – was it in other codes?

Commissioner Benson – it was in other terms.

Commissioner Fappiano – North Haven lists a specific dollar amount.

Commissioner Brisbois – maybe use cash. '...whether in the form of service, cash, loan...

F. Prohibited Business Solicitation

-keep as is

Commissioner Benson – should we include other specific items such as whistleblower protection and nepotism? We don't want people to not come forward for fear of retribution.

Include section from North Haven regarding Whistleblower.

Nepotism

-discussion

-not just family.

-influencing other departments, etc. to hire someone.

Commissioner Fappiano – include nepotism to set a standard and we can amend it later if needed.

Commissioner Brisbois – the normal hiring process should not be influenced by nepotism.

Commissioner Wilson – ensure that the most qualified person is hired.

For the next meeting – January 20, 2011 at 4:30pm ('snow day' – January 27th)

-work on the wording for nepotism and confidentiality in regards to the complaint.

-have a draft of the code.

Commissioner Wilson – does the State have a Code of Ethics?

Commissioner Benson – yes, but it is not strong.

Then with no further business before it, upon a motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Brisbois it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Ethics at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Judge - Recording Secretary