ETHICS COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 3
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024
6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
   - Chairman Kevin Staehly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
   - Valerie Almada; Janie Pittendreigh; Kevin Staehly, Chairman; Rebecca Skinner, Paul Stuhlman in attendance.
   - Linda Zemienieski present in the audience.

2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 24, 2024
   - A copy of the draft minutes for the 1/24/24 Regular Meeting was circulated for the members to review.

   - **Motion was made by Mr. Stuhlman to approve the minutes of the 01/24/24 Regular Meeting without amendment. Ms. Pittendreigh seconded the motion. Unanimous aye.**

3. Unfinished Business

   A. Commission Membership
      - Two members have terms expiring June 30, 2024: Kevin Staehly; Paul Stuhlman

      - **Motion was made by Ms. Almada** to recommend to the Board of Selectmen**, the reappointment of Mr. Staehly and Mr. Stuhlman to the Ethics Commission** for another term to expire June 30, 2027. **Ms. Pittendreigh seconded the motion. Unanimous aye.**

   B. A discussion took place regarding the appointment of Vice-Chaiman.

      - **Motion was made by Mr. Staehly to appoint Mr. Stuhlman as Vice Chairman of the Ethics Commission. Ms. Almada seconded the motion. Unanimous aye.**

   C. Reappointments discussed as part of (A) on agenda.
      - Mr. Staehly noted that the Ethics Commission currently has full membership.

   D. Ms. Zemienieski reported on the status of the distribution of the East Haddam Code of Conduct Forms.

      - Ms. Zemienieski advised that members of all the Commissions had received the forms and most had been signed and returned. Linda will follow up on those that remain.
      - Ms. Zemienieski noted previously that all sworn members of the East Haddam Board of Selectmen have received and signed the Code of Conduct.
      - Mr. Staehly also noted that all members of the Ethics Commission have read and signed the forms.

4. New Business

A. Discussion ensued regarding an effort to provide East Haddam residents with documentation that more simply states the purpose of the Ethics Commission. The goal is to provide clarity on the role of the Commission; that the scope is fairly narrow and focuses on legal compliance vs morality. Using the input from the commission, Ms. Almada agreed to draft a short explanation that could be posted on the Town website to supplement the existing Ethics Commission information. This draft to be reviewed and edited in the next Regular Meeting of the Commission.

B. Discussion occurred regarding educational opportunities for residents, especially as it relates to Freedom of Information. It was reviewed that a Freedom of Information Seminar was held earlier in the year, which several Ethics Commission members attended. Otherwise, it was sparsely attended. This seminar is open to the public, occurs biannually in East Haddam and elsewhere, also available for general public attendance.

5. Audience of Citizens

Ms. Linda Zemienieski was in attendance for the meeting and provided general advice to the Commission throughout the meeting as questions came up. She also advised that there was no digital correspondence from the Livestream received.

6. Adjournment

- Motion made by Mr. Staehly to adjourn the meeting at 6:46. Seconded by Ms. Pittendreigh. Unanimous aye.

A video recording of this meeting is available digitally on YouTube at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUqOu_P_b6k

You may also access the Town's YouTube Channel from the Town's website: www.easthaddam.org

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Almada, Secretary