ETHICS COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 1
THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2026
6:45 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

-Chairman Kevin Staehly called the meeting to order at 6:49pm on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026.
-Present: Kevin Staehly (Chairman), Rebecca Skinner (Secretary), Janie Pittendreigh, Jayne Thomas (arrived late 6:53pm)
-Absent: Paul Stuhlman

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of March 25th, 2026

-The draft minutes of the March 25th, 2026 Regular Meeting were circulated to members.
-Ms. Pittendreigh moved to approve the minutes as presented.
-Ms. Skinner seconded the motion.
-The motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

A. Ordinance Revisions

-Ms. Thomas entered the meeting at 6:53pm.
-The Commission discussed their external review of the proposed changes for redrafting the Town of East Haddam's Code of Ethical Conduct provided by Attorney Kari L. Olson from the law offices of Harris Beach Murtha. Questions were outlined for later discussion with Attorney Olson.
-The Commission noted the need for further discussion on expanding the Ethics Commission range of members to include potential alternates.

B. Conference with Attorney Kari Olson

-Attorney Kari Olson entered the meeting at 7:48pm via Zoom.
-Attorney Olson discussed the commission's questions about current sections of the Ethical Code of Conduct, proposed revisions, and additional changes identified by the Commission.
-Chairman Staehly invited First Selectman Todd Gelston, present in the audience, to ask Attorney Olson any questions he had about the proposed changes.

-Attorney Olson outlined the proposed revised steps and timelines for processing an Ethics Complaint.
-Attorney Olson left the meeting at 8:40pm.
-Commission discussed next potential meeting dates and next steps for review and approval of revisions.

C. Commission Membership

-Chairman Staehly noted a press release that went out on 4/1/26 concerning openings on the Ethics Commission.
-The Commission revisited discussion concerning alternates for the Ethics Commission.
-Chairman Staehly motioned to recommend the inclusion of 2 alternates to the draft changes to the Code of Ethical Conduct.
-Ms. Skinner seconded the motion.
-The motion passed unanimously.

4. Next Meeting Date

-Commission agreed to a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 at 7:00pm.

5. Audience of Citizens

-No public comments were received during the Audience of Citizens.

6. Adjournment

-Ms. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting.
-Ms. Pittendreigh seconded the motion.
-The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Participants unable to attend in person may view the meeting on YouTube Live at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA?view_as=subscriber

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

For YouTube Live viewers, public participation will take place via written questions or comments by emailing:
Public.questions@easthaddam.org

Questions/comments may be sent prior to and during the meeting.