

Town of Red Hook

Ethics Board Minutes

Friday, January 16, 2009

Attendance: Claire Horst, Susan Goldstein, Gail Nussbaum and Linda Keeling

Absent: Fred Cartier

Guest: None

Location: Town Hall, Main Multi-purpose Room

Call to Order: Assistant Chairman Susan Goldman called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Purpose:

1. To approve the past 12-19-08 minutes
2. Discuss how to distribute the new Ethics Code
3. Possible training session for personnel

Minutes:

Claire Horst motioned to accept the minutes from December 19, 2008 and Gail Nussbaum seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence: None

Discussion:

Assistant Chair Susan Goldstein opened up the discussion on how to best distribute the newly revised and town board approved Ethics Code in the most cost effective means to town personnel. Linda Keeling noted that town clerk Susan McCann indicated that the code would be posted on the town's website for all to read. The members felt this would save paper copies but needed a means of identifying those that have read it. It was felt that the Chairmen should receive a hard copy with a list of their members which could be initialed by the member when they read the document. A memo will be drafted and sent to the chairmen when all the committee positions have been filled. In the meantime, the clerk will post a hard copy of the Ethics Code at town hall and in the highway garage.

Linda Keeling mentioned that at the last town board meeting, Christine Chale, attorney to the town, in a personal aside, was enthusiastic about possibly providing a training session to the town personnel. The Ethics Board members were very concerned about any expenditures of money for this educational endeavor. All felt that if Christine Chale wanted to donate her services as a community member that would be fine but were very adamant that no extra expenses for legal services come from our budget for this considering the present economical climate.

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Assistant Chair Susan Goldstein contacted our liaison, Harry Colgan, at another town meeting and asked him to sit in for a few minutes which he did. Susan Goldstein was wondering if she could attend the Association of Towns NYC meeting to be held on Feb. 15th-18th regarding Ethics. Trustee Harry Colgan indicated the agenda changes frequently but he will try to attend and/or get information from the Association of Towns on the topic. Susan Goldstein also noted that the literature indicated that the court judges have a session on ethics. She will contact Judge Jonah Treibwasser to see what information he can gather for our instructional purposes.

Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, February 20, 2009, 8 a.m., town hall.

Meeting Ended:

Susan motioned to end the meeting, Claire seconded and all agreed. The meeting ended at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling,
Ethics Board Secretary
January 16, 2009

Approved with corrections 2/20/09