

Town of Red Hook Ethics Board Minutes

Friday, April 17, 2009

Attendance: Fred Cartier, Susan Goldstein, and Linda Keeling

Absent: Gail Nussbaum, (no fifth member)

Guest: Councilman Harry Colgan, liaison to the Town Board

Location: Town Hall, Conference Room

Call to Order: Chairman Fred Cartier called the meeting to order at 8:23 a.m.

Purpose:

1. To discuss various topics

Correspondence: none

Discussion:

Harry Colgan asked if the Ethics Board has made any attempt to act on the term “appearance of impropriety”. Is it just a perception or is it unethical?

Susan Goldstein felt it was not just “impropriety” but a whole different approach to what ethics is from her various readings on the subject. If it is illegal it is not our consideration.

Linda Keeling commented that ethics is subjective related to each case’s circumstances and the pertinent facts of the case. Susan Goldstein referred to a California reference material which she gave to Harry Colgan. He questioned if this is the issue the Ethics Board is struggling with but has not clearly defined and by definition you can’t clearly define it.

Chairman Fred Cartier brought up the draft minutes from 4-03-09. He noted a correction on page two, last paragraph, “changing the subject” to “off the track to get back”. Susan Goldstein indicated that she would like to change some of the language but it would be too long to do it now. Chairman Cartier asked Linda Keeling if the town clerk received the draft minutes. Linda indicated that she emailed the town clerk. The Chairman felt the minutes should not be on the web until they are approved and Susan Goldstein agreed. He requested that the draft minutes not be posted until approved and directed Linda Keeling to contact Susan McCann regarding this issue. Susan Goldstein offered to revise sections for a more general meaning. Chairman Cartier suggested we put this off until the next regular meeting date.

Chairman Cartier noted the Ethics Board has only received one resume to join the board. It was from Michael Pollock, a lawyer. He suggested we hold the review off until the next meeting.

Chairman Cartier referred to a questionnaire he received from the Economic Development Committee Task Force. He read each section for additional input and all agreed on how it was completed and turned into the Town clerk.

Susan Goldstein asked if there was anything else to discuss. Linda Keeling brought up several questions:

1. When asking a question of a person before the Ethics Board, she feels she should not have to justify her question to any board member. The Chairman runs the meeting so if he feels the question is inappropriate the Chairman should say that.

2. Linda feels all of the Ethics Board members should fill out a bio-disclosure form that we talked about at the last meeting so it is available to the public upon request.

Chairman Cartier asked if there was a bio-form out there. Susan Goldstein stated there is a general disclosure form. Chairman Cartier suggested that we might want to recommend a standard form to the Town Board.

Next Meeting: A regular meeting is scheduled for **Friday, May 15th** at 8 am.

Meeting Ended: Fred Cartier motioned to end the meeting and Susan Goldstein seconded, all agreed. The meeting ended at 9:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling,
Ethics Board Secretary

Passed at the June 19th, 2009 Meeting\Fred Cartier