

Wilton Town Council on Ethics  
Meeting Minutes- Thursday, April 7, 2016

Present: Julianne Higgins (former commission member), Andrew Mais (Chairman), Joshua Kammerman, J. McGarry Costello, Elizabeth Edwards and William Lalor (individually "Member(s)", or collectively the "Council").

Chairman Mais called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

A motion was made and duly seconded, and the agenda for this meeting, as filed with the Town Clerk and published on the Town's website, was unanimously adopted.

Another motion was made and seconded, and the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2016, were adopted, by a vote of three members, with two members abstaining.

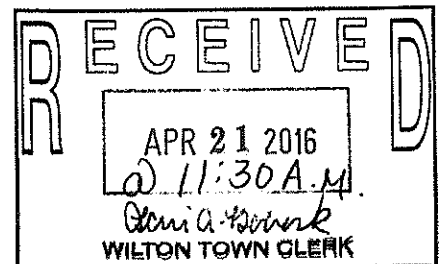
New member, Elizabeth Edwards, was introduced by Chairman Mais to the Council. She discussed her background, and was welcomed warmly.

Chairman Mais next asked the Council to review the Town Code of Ethics (the "Code"), keeping in mind the Council's primary duties are:

1. Issue advisory opinions; and
2. Handle and investigation complaints of ethical violations.

Chairman Mais then turned the attention of the Council to the term "full Council" within the Code; and whether it is to be read in its literal, plain English definition, or interpreted by the Council. Former Council Member Higgins discussed a conversation he'd had with Steven Hudspeth (former Chairman and drafter of the Code). Mr. Hudspeth explained that the drafters intended to create a scenario where such definition is not specifically stated, thereby, leaving each Council and Chairman, to adopt a reasonable definition. The Council acknowledged the possibility that redefining the term "full Council" may cause issues with voting, as it could cause "stalemate" votes.

Chairman Mais brought to the Council's attention the fact the similar Councils in other towns have a variety of differences, thereby making comparisons difficult. Further, the council utilized by the State of Connecticut has nine members, with six required for quorum. The possibility of "alternate" members of the Council were also discussed. Former Council member Higgins concurred with Chairman Mais' analysis. She informed that the Code allows the Council to amend the Code, or make rules as is necessary to function most efficiently. Chairman Mais once more emphasized the importance of the Council acting swiftly, upon submission of a complaint, to issue an advisory opinion after a careful review of the particular facts of the matter.



Chairman Mais next raised the issue of methods of communication amongst the Council, and those prescribed in the Code. As technology improves, methods of communication change. It was agreed that same should be defined in the Code, more specifically. Chairman Mais posed the question to the Town Counsel if e-mail would be considered an acceptable for voting purposes, but had yet to receive a response.

There was no "new business" and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua L. Kammerman