

Wilton Town Council on Ethics
Meeting Minutes- Monday, January 26, 2016

Present: Andrew Mais (“Chairman”), Virginia Benin, J. McGarry Costello, Joshua Kammerman and William Lalor (individually “Member(s)”, or collectively the “Council”).

Chairman Mais called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 October 19, 2015, were adopted.

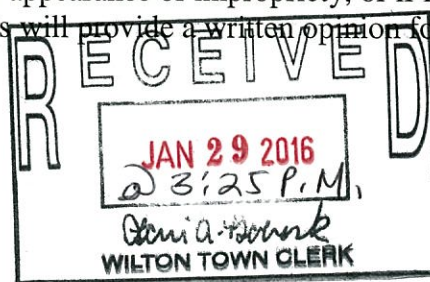
Chairman Mais informed the Council that all people being sworn in for positions with the Town by Lori Kaback, Town Clerk; are in fact, also signing the code of ethics handbook, promulgated by the Council.

Chairman Mais informed the Council he had attending an ethics training session which was very informative. As a result, he suggested others attend, and he would check to see when and where other sessions are being offered.

Member Costello, as a new appointment, was introduced by Chairman Mais and gave a brief introduction to the Council. Members welcome him warmly.

The Council was asked to provide an advisory opinion with respect to a newly elected Town Selectman, whose spouse is an employee of Friends of Ambler Farm, a 501(c)(3) not for profit entity. The spouse holds a paid position. Friends of Ambler Farm, receive some of their funding from the Town of Wilton, which must be approved by the Board of Selectman. Member Benin gave a detailed description of the overall history and corporate structure of Ambler Farms, as it currently exists. It was unanimous among the Council that the Selectman must recuse himself from any matter, financial or otherwise, relating to the Friends of Ambler Farm. Chairman Mais will provide a written opinion for the Council to review.

Additionally, this same newly elected Selectman is an appointed Trustee of the Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust. The Trust provides college scholarships for worthy recipients, and provide other local donations to charitable, religious, municipal benevolent or educational organizations, as determined by the Trustees. The Council concluded that no recusal should be required for anything other than appearances directly in front of the Board of Selectman. The Council also felt it prudent to reserve the right to revisit this issue at any future time, to determine if this approach is able to alleviate any appearance of impropriety, or if further measures should be implemented. Chairman Mais will provide a written opinion for the Council to review.



There being no other business, the Council then scheduled its next meeting for Thursday, April 7, 2016, at a location to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joshua L. Kammerman