

Council on Ethics  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
Town of Wilton, Connecticut  
Friday, April 29, 2022

Chair Elizabeth Edwards called the Wilton Council on Ethics meeting to order through the Town of Wilton Zoom link at 6:07 p.m. in the presence of a quorum. Present were Council Members Edwards, Rhonda Brown, Perri Shepherd, and Tamara Conway.

On motion by Brown and second by Conway, the adoption of the Agenda as filed was accepted unanimously.

The Council then considered the single agenda item, approval of the revised Minutes from November 19, 2021 (revision appears below). Conway moved to approve the Minutes; Edwards seconded. Conway, Edwards, and Brown voted to approve the revised minutes. Member Shepherd abstained as she had not participated in the matter voted upon at the November 2021 meeting.

Edwards moved to adjourn. Brown seconded. The members voted unanimously to adjourn.

**Note: These Minutes have not been reviewed by the Council and may be subject to revision in future minutes.**

**Revised April 28, 2022  
Approved April 29, 2022**

Council on Ethics  
Minutes of Meeting  
Town of Wilton, Connecticut  
Friday, November 19, 2021

Chair Sayegh called the meeting to order through the Town of Wilton Zoom link at 6:34 p.m. in the presence of a quorum. Present were Council Members Edwards, Brown, Conway, and Chair Sayegh.

On motion by member Brown and second by member Edwards, the adoption of the Agenda as filed was accepted unanimously.

Chair Sayegh announced that the Council has a new member, Perri Shepherd. Shephard is not participating in the matter before the committee at this meeting because she joined the Council after the testimony on the matter had been received by the members.

Chair Sayegh turned to the fourth item Agenda:

4. Council Vote on Approval of the Following Tree Warden Advisory Opinion Regarding the Nick Lee Request: ***The Council on Ethics Advisory Opinion involving a Tree Warden Planting Trees Under the Tree Donation Program: Limited to and in the event that a Tree Warden wishes to fulfill a Town service in the planting of a tree under the Wilton Tree Donation Program, the Council believes that no ethics violation would occur if the cost of the tree minus the Town donation would leave a balance equal to or less than \$500 because such a net balance, in our view, would be De minimis and can reasonably be said to avoid public scrutiny.***

In alphabetical order, members Brown, Conway, Edwards and Chair Sayegh expressed their views on the matter under consideration: whether a conflict of interest occurs when a Tree Warden fulfills a Town service in the planting of a tree under the Wilton Tree Donation Program. The four members agreed that if a Tree Warden wishes to fulfill a Town service in the planting of a tree under the Wilton Tree Donation Program, no ethics violation would occur if the amount the Tree Warden receives for planting services, minus the actual cost of the services (e.g, tree purchase, labor, equipment, etc.) is equal to or less than \$500 because such a net balance, in the Council's view, would be *de minimis* and would not create a conflict of interest.

The four members voted unanimously to Approve the Tree Warden Advisory Opinion proposed in the Agenda.

Chair Sayegh agreed to draft the Advisory Opinion. She announced that she is leaving the Council to take a position on another Town board. She thanked the Council for its efforts and announced that Member Edwards will become the Chair and will notice our next meeting in the Spring.

Member Edwards moved to adjourn. Chair Sayegh seconded. The members voted and the meeting was adjourned.