

Town of Colchester
ETHICS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2022
Town Hall Meeting Room One at 5:30
MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 FEB -9 PM 2:45
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Attendance: Present: Ursula Tschinkel, John Malsbenden, Elizabeth Wagner
Member excused: Dean Dest
Guest: Irene Malsbenden.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Tschinkel.
2. Additions to the Agenda. None.
3. Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2021 meeting. Motion by Malsbenden to approve as submitted. Second by Mrs. Wagner. Vote: unanimous approval.
4. Citizens' Comments. None.
5. Board of Selectman Annual Report – review and include with minutes. The commission reviewed the annual report that Chair Tschinkel prepared for the Board of Selectmen. A copy will be attached to the minutes.
6. Continue Review of the Ethics Code.
 - a. Introduction. Chair Tschinkel read the introduction aloud. The commission members had previously agreed to this wording.
 - b. Additional Definitions. The following will be added to the definitions: "Beneficial Interest. Any non-financial interest or special interest that is common to other citizens of the town." Motion to add this definition by Mr. Malsbenden, Second by Mrs. Wagner. Vote: unanimous approval.
 - c. Email to Town Attorney. This item was tabled for the next meeting.
7. Citizens Comments. Mrs. Malsbenden kindly commented that the commission members work well together for the benefit of the town.
8. Adjournment. Motion by Mr. Malsbenden to adjourn. Second by Mrs. Wagner. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Wagner
Member

To: First Selectman Bisbikos and the Board of Selectmen

From: Ursula Tschinkel, Ethics Chairman

Date: February 6, 2022

Re: Annual Ethics Report

The Code of Ethics Section 53-4, Duties of Commission, Part A, section (3), states the Commission shall, "Report annually on or before February 1 to the Board of Selectmen summarizing the activities of the Commission".

The Commission has updated its schedule to meet on the second Tuesday of every even numbered month at 5:30 p.m. For the year 2021, the Ethics Commission held three regular meetings and six special meetings.

The Commission received two complaint forms regarding potential violations of the Colchester Ethics Code. The Commission reviewed and discussed each potential complaint. By unanimous agreement of the members, both potential complaints were concluded and dismissed, as there were no findings of probable cause.

We continue to work on Code review and revision, and updating the forms and instructions found on the Ethics webpage. We are in the final stages of obtaining approval from the Town Attorney regarding our updates to the Code.