

Durham Ethics Committee
Meeting Minutes, August 1, 2007
Draft, subject to approval at August 8 meeting

- I. Present:** Bob Fulton, Pat Kupcho, Kathleen McTigue, David Montgomery, Lisa Stafford. **Absent:** Robert Horn, Matthew Reed.
- II. Minutes:** Minutes from the July 27 meeting were considered; for the sake of clarity, last sentence of last paragraph of # III was amended to read “We generally concurred that members shall follow the same rules for Commission business as they develop for town officials.”
Moved to accept the amended minutes by Pat, seconded by Lisa, **motion passed unanimously.**
- III. Old Business:**
- a)** Bob Fulton reported that he made several attempts to contact Matthew Reed and was unsuccessful; he reported this to our Selectmen and left it to them to pursue Mr. Reed’s membership on this Committee.
- b)** Bob also contacted the Durham town attorney, Charles Andres, as requested last week, to inquire about this Committee’s latitude to create the Ethics Commission with balanced representation from political parties. He was told that quotas, where specified in the past, have been incorporated purely to protect minority representation and that we can expand this effort. Andres has agreed to verify this opinion.
- IV. Statement of Purpose:** As requested, Robert Horn drafted a statement of purpose for the Ethics Commission, which he circulated to Committee members during the week via e-mail. After discussion we agreed that Bob Fulton will elaborate on this statement for approval at our next meeting. The revised statement of purpose will include language stating why the Commission is being formed, specifically a statement concerning the importance of the public trust.
- V. Formation of the Commission:** The bulk of our time together was spent in discussion about the following points, which had been outlined during our first meeting. We considered Ethics Commission ordinances from Branford, Guilford and Enfield, and formulated and agreed to the following:
- a) Composition and appointment:** The Ethics Commission shall be composed of five regular members, electors of the town, who are known for their personal integrity. The Commission members shall be appointed by unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen. No more than two members shall be from any one party. Two alternate members shall also be appointed, and may not be members of the same party. **Moved by David, seconded by Pat. Four votes in favor, one opposed. Motion Passed.**

b) Exclusions: No member of the Commission may be a current elected official, town employee, current contractor, subcontractor or consultant with the town. No Commission member shall be a current member of either party's Town Committee.

Moved by Lisa, seconded by Pat. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Term Limits: Members shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for no more than two consecutive terms. To establish rotation, initial appointments shall be: two members for three years, two members for two years and one member for one year. Initial appointments for the alternates shall be one alternate for three years and one alternate for two years.

Moved by Kathleen, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Next meeting: The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will be Wednesday, August 8, 5:30-7:30pm, Town Hall (second floor meeting room).

The agenda will include:

1) General charge to the Ethics Commission (create a Code of Ethics for the Town, determine how complaints of ethics violations shall be received, what process shall be followed as a result, etc.)

2) Determine to whom the Commission shall report; how the Code of Ethics shall be approved; what issues, if any, should be excluded from the Commission's purview

3) Other business