

GREENWICH BOARD OF ETHICS
Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 2, 2022

Members Present: Paul deBary, Chair, Jennifer Paul Cohen, Secretary, Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Robert Sisca

Members Absent: Robert Grele

Others Present: Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney
Mark R. Kordick, RTM member District 9
Richard Neuman, Chair, Town Services Committee

The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:33 P.M. by the Chair, who noted that a quorum was present and that a revised agenda for the meeting had been provided to all the members, posted online and posted in Town Hall in accordance with Freedom of Information Act requirements.

The Chair began with item 2a and 2b on the revised agenda, approval of Minutes. The Secretary had distributed a draft of the minutes of the Board's regular meeting on December 7, 2021, and the minutes of Board's special meeting on January 5, 2022. After review, there were no further revisions requested to the draft minutes. The Chair then moved for adoption and the minutes of both the December 7, 2021, and January 5, 2022, meetings of the Board were unanimously approved. The adopted final minutes are attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

The Chair began with Item 4 on the revised agenda, a request for an Advisory Opinion regarding participation of RTM representatives as members of Committees which may be involved in matters in which they have a financial interest. Said request was submitted to the Board of Ethics on January 31, 2022, and acknowledged by the Chair on February 1, 2022. A discussion ensued concerning the applicability of the Code of Ethics as it related to the scope of general responsibilities an RTM representative might incur as differentiated from more specific responsibilities a representative might incur while serving as a member and/or an alternate on a Committee and/or Subcommittee charged with more targeted oversight and duties.

The Chair indicated that the Board would establish a working group to prepare a draft Advisory Opinion.

At 5:56 PM: Messrs. Kordick and Neuman left the meeting.

The Chair then moved to item 3a on the revised agenda, a review of the Temporary FOIA Rules for Electronic and Hybrid Meetings. The Chair reviewed the Board's practices for providing access to virtual meetings for members of the public, and for providing a summary of the meeting's proceedings in the Board's minutes which are posted online.

[At 6:07 PM, Robert Sisca excused himself and returned at 6:08 PM.]

The Chair then moved to item 3b on the revised agenda, the Safe Harbor Policy Initiative. The Chair indicated that the Chair of the Historic District Commission reported that the Safe Harbor Policy had been circulated among Commission members and that the Policy would be adopted in approximately one week.

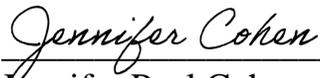
The Chair then moved to item 5a on the revised agenda, the 1st Selectman's request for recommendations concerning referrals by Town entities and officers. The Chair requested that members begin reaching out to Town Departments who might have encountered this issue to learn how requests are handled and what best practices might look like. The Chair also suggested that members research state and federal government practices relating to requests for referrals.

The next item on the revised agenda was item 7, a review and preliminary investigation of reports concerning possible violations of the Code of Ethics. Under State law and the Board's Statement of Procedures, such considerations are required to be done confidentially until the Board makes a determination that there is probable cause to believe that a violation of the Code has occurred. Accordingly, at 6:19 PM a motion to adjourn into executive session was made by the Chair and unanimously approved. At 8:13 PM the Board returned from executive session and reconvened in regular session.

The Board then established a working group consisting of Robert Sisca and Jennifer Cohen to prepare a draft Advisory Opinion, and the Chair reviewed the process of preparing and circulating a draft Advisory Opinion.

Following this discussion, there was no further business before the Board and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Paul Cohen
Board of Ethics, Secretary

Exhibit A

to 2/2/22 Minutes

MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON

December 7th, 2021

and

January 5th, 2022

were approved in final form at the February 2nd meeting and are not included to avoid needless duplication and repetition.

