

Town Of Weare Ethics Committee Minutes
FINAL

April 19, 2023

First meeting of the newly formed Ethics Committee called to order at 7:01pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present:

Neal Kurk, Wendy Curry, Suzanne Couhie, Lucas Drake, Eileen Meaney

Establishment of Officers:

Chair

Neal Kurk nominated Wendy Curry as Chair; Luke Drake seconded. Other members unanimously voted in favor of Wendy Curry as chair. Wendy Curry accepted.

Secretary

Suzanne Couhie nominated Eileen Meaney as secretary, Neal Kurk seconded. Other members unanimously voted in favor of Eileen Meaney as secretary. Eileen Meaney accepted.

Wendy Curry identified a structure for meeting management based on a modified version of Roberts Rules of Order.

Committee discussion focused on the history of the committee and the work that was accomplished in 2006 to build a process for town members to use. Committee members agreed that initial work would include a review of the process established, including forms developed at that time.

Committee members had questions regarding the existing Code of Ethics document, specifically if town employees and elected and appointed officials have been consistently signing this document.

Town Administrator Bolton answered that all town employees and BOS members sign. She has copies of these signed documents. She referred the committee to Town Clerk Bilodeau for information regarding the process and availability of the forms of other elected and appointed officials.

Discussion continued regarding process for this committee. Wendy Curry stated that there are a few points to establish: including that these committee meetings will be televised for transparency of process. Future focus of the committee will be to increase our understanding of what the original committee completed, and if that work is in alignment with the town warrant article. The committee will also seek to understand what constitutes confidentiality for those seeking to address ethics advisory opinions or complaints.

Beginning 5/3/23, the Ethics Committee will meet the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of the month. Schedule for May will be: 5/3/23, 5/17/23, 5/24/23. Committee members agreed in order to educate town members on the committee's on-going development, we will provide the editor of Weare in the World an update on a monthly basis. The chair will take this notification on as an action item. Information will also be added to the Town of Weare Ethics Committee webpage, which can be found on the town's website.

Chair reminded members of what constitutes a meeting and advised members to not host discussions in email form.

Committee continued to review previous documents and used this discussion to develop an agenda for next meeting on 5/3/23. Items to be discussed include: a continued review of the work of the 2006 committee. Understanding the original documents, and establishing a framework to operationalize the work of the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm

Respectfully submitted in draft for your review,

Eileen P. Meaney