

Town of Weare Ethics Committee

July 5, 2023

Members Present:

Neal Kurk (NK) arrived 30 minutes into meeting start time due to previous engagement, Wendy Curry (WC), Eileen Meaney (EM), Luke Drake (LD), Suzanne Couhie (SC).

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Reviewed agenda for 7/5/23.

Reviewed minutes from the meeting held on 6/7/23- No revisions noted. WC made a motion and LD seconded to accept minutes as written. Minutes accepted by unanimous vote of members present.

1. LD reported that he attended the webinar hosted by NHMA regarding 91-A. He states that the committee may need to look more closely at the proposed processes identified by the Ethics Committee whereby the committee enters non-public to review correspondence. The committee had a detailed conversation about how there would need to be a vote to enter into non-public for the purposes of reviewing correspondence to vet any potential impact to reputation.

LD also discussed information that NHMA stated you can only enter into non-public if there could be "severe" impacts vs. trivial.

Lengthy discussion regarding how to operationalize this process.

2. Action item from meeting on 6/7/23 was the creation of documents to support process for inquiry request for advisory opinion and counsel. NK submitted 5 documents (see attached) for committee review and edit.

Worked on document: Request for Advisory Opinion and Counsel. Made a series of edits. Chair moved to defer vote on this document in order to vote on the entirety as a package.

As the committee moved on to next document, discussion returned to greater discussion on process regarding how to operationalize in a manner to protect information.

After much discussion, committee revised their process and decided to add a process option where individuals could submit their Inquiry Request for Advisory Opinion and Counsel in an anonymous way by dropping a question in a drop box in town office.

Committee continued to discuss the manner in which this information would be communicated to the public to ensure as much transparency as possible, while utilizing the 91-A process to ensure that severe harm to reputation was mitigated.

NK will return to 5 draft documents to revise written forms to reflect this direction. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm by WC.
Meetings schedule for July as follows.

7/19/23

7/26/23

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen P. Meaney