

The Town of Brooklyn Board of Ethics Commission

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MEETING

Monday June 3, 2013, 2013 @ 7:00 PM *Bona Q. Mainville*
at the TOWN HALL TOWN CLERK, BROOKLYN, CT

RECORDED VOL. PAGE

MINUTES

Joseph Cooper, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

- 1.) Roll Call: Joseph Cooper, Pam Childs, Ron Panicci, John Harris and Mike Barry
- 2.) Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2013 - Ron Panicci made a motion to approve the May 6, 2013 Minutes. Second by Mike Barry with the following corrections - Title - Agenda to Minutes - Ron Cooper should be Joe Cooper - Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission next discussed the next scheduled meeting date. Due to conflicts. It will be rescheduled to July 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm . Consensus. This will be a Special Meeting.

- 3.) Public Commentary - None

4.) Correspondence – Mike Barry presented a Complaint, dated May 15, 2013, he received on behalf of the Board of Ethics Commission from the Selectmen.

The Commissioners agreed to review and discuss the Complaint at this evening's meeting.

A letter will be composed and sent to the Selectmen with their findings.

Mike Barry next presented another correspondence regarding a Complaint, however it was dated in 2009. The Commission agreed the Statute of Limitations had expired.

- 5.) Unfinished Business - None

- 6.) New or Other Business –

Review of Town of Brooklyn Code of Ethics – The Commissioners have reviewed the Town of Putnam's Ordinance. Ron Panicci felt they should start at the beginning to discuss what each Commissioner felt was pertinent to Brooklyn. Consensus.

The Commission started with Section 1-1. Definitions. John Harris had prepared a proposed revision to the Putnam Code of Ethics.

Definitions

"Business" means any activity involving a transfer of value for goods or services.

"Business Days" are those days the Town Hall offices are available to the public.

"Commission" as used in this ordinance, means the Town of Brooklyn Board of Ethics. Other Town Boards and commissions will be specifically identified by their proper names or referenced by their function.

"Confidential Information" means information concerning prospective actions by the officers, Boards, and/or Commissions of the Town of Brooklyn which have not been made public by the officer, board or commission proposing such action.

"Conflict of Interest" means an interest which is in substantial conflict with a public official's or Town employee's proper discharge of his or her duties. Such person has such an interest if he or she has reason to believe there is a likelihood that there will be a transfer of value between the Town and such person, or any immediate family member or business associate of such person, resulting from an official act of such person on behalf of the Town.

"Interest" means any business transaction in excess of \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars) between the Town and any other person.

"Gift" means a transfer of goods, services or money to any Town officer or employee without a reciprocal transfer by such person of equivalent value.

The following gifts are specifically allowed:

- a. Transfers from immediate family members*
- b. Transfers, including meals and admission fees, valued at \$25.00 (Twenty five Dollars) or less on any one occasion, provided that the total for any twelve month period does not exceed \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars).*
- c. Transfers of goods, services or money for the immediate benefit of the Town, with the recipient official or employee acting merely as a conduit, and with full and immediate disclosure by the recipient of the fact of the transfer.*
- d. A certificate, Plaque, honorary degree or other ceremonial award costing less than \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars) made during a public event.*

"Individual" means a natural person.

"Person" means, in addition to an individual, corporations, companies and groups of individuals having associated themselves for a common purpose.

"Personal interest" means an interest in which an action by the Town results in

a benefit or detriment to a person.

"Probable cause" for the purpose of considering a complaint made to the Commission, shall require a finding that facts alleged, if true, would persuade an impartial person of ordinary intelligence and experience that a violation of this ordinance has occurred.

"Public Employee" means a person receiving payment from the Town for services.

"Public Official" means an elected or appointed individual having discretionary and/or supervisory powers over Town business., including candidates for Town elective offices.

"Relative" means the spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grand-child, sibling, step-parent, and step-child of an individual, and their respective spouses.

The Commission agreed with Mr. Harris' proposal. All definitions not listed will be eliminated.

7.) Executive Session - None

8.) Adjournment - Ron Panicci move to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Second by Mike Barry. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Desrosier