

Minutes

Ethics Committee

December 5, 2022, Meeting—Via Zoom

Attendees: Committee members (Alex Ghesquiere, Marc Efron, Lorie Mitchell); Council members (Susan Fattig, Katie Howard, Andrew Kauders); Village Manager (Michael Silliman); and Village residents (Peter Kahn, Susan Kahn, Lynne Welle)

Call to Order and Welcome: Lorie Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed the attendees, particularly noting the new Village Manager, Michael Silliman.

Discussion of Applying Ethics Code to all Village Committees and Task Forces: As noticed in the meeting agenda, the Committee considered recommending to the Council the application of the Ethics Code to all Village committees and task forces. Currently, the Ethics Code applies only to the Village Council, the Election Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Tree Supervisor, and Village employees. After discussion, upon a motion by Marc Efron, which was seconded by Alex Ghesquiere, the Committee voted 3-0 to recommend to the Council that the Ethics Code be made applicable to all Village committees and task forces, including those to which it currently is applicable, as contemplated by the draft changes to the Code prepared by the Village attorney.

Review of November 15th Ethics Training: As noticed in the meeting agenda, the Committee reviewed the November 15 training session. The Committee agreed that the training appeared to be well-received and that the 40 minutes allotted to the training was appropriate. The Committee also agreed to ask the Village Council about scheduling training for its members and possibly for other Village volunteers who did not attend the November 15 session. The Committee also discussed the Council's draft "Committee Guidelines," and, because of their uncertain status, decided not to make any recommendations with respect to them.

Review of Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Committee's Review of Conflict of Interest (COI) Questionnaires and Oaths of Office: As noticed in the meeting agenda, the Committee reviewed the current SOP for its review of COI Questionnaires and Oaths of Office completed by members of the Village Council and members of Village committees. After discussion of issues that impede the completion of these forms by August 1, as required by the Code, it was agreed to ask the Village lawyer if the Oaths of Office were required to be notarized and, if so, if there was a way to accomplish this on-line.

Resident Comments: Susan Kahn expressed her objections to the changes to the Ethics Code approved by the Committee and to placing the resident comments at the end of the meeting. After her comments, none of the Committee members changed his/her vote on the changes to the Ethics Code. With respect to the timing of resident comments, it was pointed out that the Committee's practice, as followed for this meeting, is to invite written comments in the notices of its meetings so that Committee members could consider comments prior to and during its deliberations, and no resident comments were received prior to this meeting.

Additional Business: No Committee member had any additional business.

Schedule for Next Meeting: The Committee agreed to meet next on February 6, 2023.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Alex Ghesquiere, seconded by Marc Efron, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Marc Efron on December 6, 2022

