

Ethics Committee
Thursday, January 20, 2022
Virtual Meeting
Minutes

Members Present: John DeWolf (Chair), James Raynor, Jamie Lang-Rodean, Winthrop Smith, Saul Nesselroth & Suzanne Singer Bansal

Committee On Committees Acting Chairperson: Terry Berthelot

Staff Present: Holly Schaefer, Kelsey Haddad, David Proulx, Jennifer Kaufman

Mr. DeWolf called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Raynor moved to approve the minutes from the October 2021 meeting. Suzanne Singer Bansal seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

III. AGENDA ITEMS

- Conflict of Interest - Opinion Sought

- The Committee on Committees requests that the Ethics Board review the possible conflict of interest of individuals to serve on the Town's Affordable Housing Committee who are either employed or currently serve on Board of Directors that may receive funding from the Affordable Housing Trust established by the Town of Mansfield's Town Council.. Kaufman shares with the Ethics Board a document from Kevin Deneen, Town Attorney stating that there is no prohibition with an individual serving on both the Town's Affordable Housing Committee and the Housing Authority's Board of Directors but it may present concerns. Singer-Bansal asks why a Housing Authority employee would request to serve on the Affordable Housing Committee, both Berthelot and Kaufman explain that these individuals have knowledge, expertise, and interest in the area of affordable housing.
- Board members have questions about how this trust will be funded, Berthelot explains that the Town Council determines funding.
- DeWolfe and Raynor agree that there is a conflict of interest and that Housing Authority members should be able to attend Affordable Housing Committee meetings to consult on certain issues. Lang-Rodean and Smith agree there is a conflict of interest and Housing Authority employees and members should not serve on the Affordable Housing Committee.

IV. Winthrop Smith so moved, Jim Raynor seconded that it is the opinion of the Mansfield Ethics Board that members of groups that are potential beneficiaries of the Mansfield Affordable Housing Trust would have a conflict or perceived conflict of interest if they were to serve on the Mansfield Affordable Housing Committee. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNEMENT

John DeWolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Haddad, Human Resources Specialist