

Dunbarton Ethics Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Minutes of meetings are subject to final approval at the next scheduled meeting.

Present: Nick Holmes, Katharine Daly, Patrick Payette, Brigitte Cook, and Tom Hathcoat.
Four citizens of the Town of Dunbarton were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m.

1. The committee welcomed new member, Patrick Payette.
2. A draft of minutes for the meeting held on February 10, 2009 was reviewed and approved as presented.
3. Dunbarton resident, Mert Mann presented a complaint against a member of the Board of Selectmen, Leslie Hammond, alleging that Mr. Hammond had violated Dunbarton Code of Ethics Provision I-E, regarding the misuse of confidential information. Mr. Mann included as attachments to the complaint minutes from meetings of the Board of Selectmen and a letter marked "Attorney Client Privileged". The committee voted to keep the contents of the letter in confidence at this time until a determination can be made regarding a continuing need for confidentiality. The committee discussed the complaint with Mr. Mann, and accepted the complaint as presented. The committee will contact Mr. Hammond to formally notify him of the complaint and to schedule a preliminary meeting for both parties.
4. Nick Holmes asked the committee renew efforts to approach various Town committees and departments to schedule training and informational meetings to educate members and employees about their responsibilities under the Dunbarton Code of Ethics. The matter was tabled for future discussion.
5. Nick Holmes stated that he had been approached by officials of the Town of Litchfield for information about drafting a code of ethics for that town. The committee is favorable to assisting in that effort.

The next meeting of the Ethics Committee will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Hathcoat