

Dunbarton Ethics Committee

Thursday, 27 January 2005

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

Attending: Nick Holmes, Brigitte Cook and Brett St. Clair. (Scott Ives was delayed by traffic and arrived just prior to the conclusion of the meeting).

Public Present: JR Swindlehurst, Lori Davis and Devon Cormier (The Bow Times).

Nick called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

1. The minutes for the December 2004 meeting were approved, subject to a correction of the date for our January 2005 meeting.
2. The Ethics Committee has received a complaint by Lori Davis and Alan Rockenbach relating to JR Swindlehurst. The committee members present discussed their relationships with the parties, and concluded recusal was not required. A preliminary meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005; both JR and Ms. Davis stated they were available that evening. The Preliminary Meeting will be held at the Dunbarton Elementary School. The committee reiterated the fact that the filing of an ethics complaint is merely an accusation and the respondent must be presumed innocent until and unless an adverse finding is made after a full hearing on the merits. No further action was taken at this time.
3. The Ethics Committee has received a complaint by Gary Chicoine relating to John Herlihy. The committee members present discussed their relationships with the parties, and concluded recusal was not required. A preliminary meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005. Mr. Herlihy and Mr. Chicoine will be notified of that meeting. The Preliminary Meeting will be held at the Dunbarton Elementary School. The committee reiterated the fact that the filing of an ethics complaint is merely an accusation and the respondent must be presumed innocent until and unless an adverse finding is made after a full hearing on the merits. No further action was taken at this time.
4. A meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2005 at 5:30 PM at the Town Offices to welcome all newly elected town officials, and to give them a brief orientation regarding Dunbarton's Ethics Code.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted for the committee:

*Nick Holmes*