

East Greenbush Board of Ethics
February 3, 2016
Meeting minutes

Board members present - Judy Ehrlich, Jessica Lansing, Kathleen Luria, Guy Warner

The Board was glad to have in attendance Jack Conway, Joe Slater, and was especially glad to welcome a Columbia High School Participation in Government (PIG) student.

Guy Warner went through his work on Section 4 Financial Disclosure. He has made many additions, particularly regarding the information required.

Jessica Lansing discussed her research which was lengthy with significant information out on the internet to research. She suggested changes to Future Employment, Section 11-1. Thirty days would be changed to one year, and sixty days would be changed to two years. The Nepotism section (Section 15) had a number of changes. Guy Warner questioned whether 15a meant recusal.

Jessica added information regarding Seasonal Employment. In discussing this issue the Board decided they need to be educated on the town/county's human resources regulations. Discussed whether the hiring practices should be synced with the Board of Ethics.

Right now, ideas are just being presented. The Board will go over the changes in workshops. While public opinions will be requested, discussion will have to be limited.

Judy Ehrlich presented her research regarding the definition of "relative". Various municipality versions were discussed.

Kathleen Luria informed us of her research on Section 16, Political Activity and Solicitations, specifically pointing out that campaign activities should not be during business hours.

The attorney for the Board, Joe Slater, wondered if the code will also apply to independent contractors, and Board of Ethics members.

Guy Warner thought there should be a dedicated e-mail address available for the Board of Ethics use. Jessica and Jack agreed that there should be, and that it will be worked on.

Jack Conway added his thoughts on the suggestions made by BOE members. He suggested there should be a more defined definition of "relatives." He also discussed whether members of various boards should be included along with employees and Town officials to not be permitted on political committees.

The financial disclosure form should be enlarged, although for a later year.

Guy and Kathleen believe there needs to be “more teeth” to Section 22, regarding penalties.

Jack and Jessica debated whether we need information on regulations to be followed in case of an emergency situation. Jack admitted to his own unknown breach of the code during an emergency situation.

The Board will be recommending small changes to the Financial Disclosure statement after conferring with Joe Slater.

A workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 at Town Hall to review Section 4 - Financial Disclosure, and the definition of relatives. There will also be a workshop on March 2. The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ehrlich
February 6, 2016