



Town of East Greenbush Board of Ethics
225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144
Eastgreenbush.org

East Greenbush Board of Ethics
2017 Annual Report

The Board of Ethics (BOE) is pleased to submit the following report for the year 2017. The board is required to prepare and submit an annual report of its activities to the Town Board pursuant to Section 23 of the Town of East Greenbush Code of Ethics.

The Board engaged in the following activities during 2017:

Board Members

Judith Ehrlich's term on the BOE expired on December 31, 2016. The BOE thanks Judy Ehrlich for her past years of service. The Town Board filled the position with the appointment of Roger Johnson at their January 18, 2017 meeting. At the same meeting the Town Board also appointed Mary Boisvert and Lee Cookson to the two vacant BOE alternate positions. They will serve a five year term. Kathleen Luria was nominated and unanimously voted BOE Chairperson for 2017. Nomination and voting of future chairpersons should be held in open session.

Guy Warner	Term Expiration December 31, 2017
Kathleen Luria, Chair	Term Expiration December 31, 2018
Cheryl Vallee	Term Expiration December 31, 2019
Jessica Lansing, Employee Representative	Term Expiration December 31, 2020
Roger Johnson	Term Expiration December 31, 2021
Mary Boisvert	Term Expiration December 31, 2021
Lee Cookson	Term Expiration December 31, 2021
Mr. Joseph Slater, Esq. Board of Ethics Attorney	

Meetings

The BOE met on February 6, April 3, September 26, and in joint sessions with the Town Board on October 11 and November 1, 2017.

The issue of ethics training was the major focus at all meetings for 2017. Ethics training remains and is an ongoing concern for the BOE. Law #3 2016 – Code of Ethics was posted and distributed to all town hall employees, DPW, waste treatment, transfer employees and police officers. The Town's employee manual was updated to include this Code of Ethics. Additionally, the Town Board provided a budget of \$2,500 for ethics training.

The Town Board and the BOE came to the agreement that an independent ethics trainer should provide the training to all staff required to take ethics training. Jessica Lansing knew of someone who was very qualified and might be willing to do the training. Scott Fein, Esq. of Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna has agreed to provide (pro bono) ethics training to all staff required to take ethics training. Mr. Fein does the ethics training for the State Bar Association, the Public Authority Oversight Office, most State public authorities and some training for the City of Rensselaer. Mr. Fein met with the Town Board and Board of Ethics at our joint meeting on November 1, 2017 to discuss and share his vision for ethics training. Supervisor Conway indicated the town does at times engage Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna for various legal services and would have to determine if there would be any conflicts of interest. Supervisor Conway and Mr. Fein both determined there would not be any conflict. The BOE will meet with Mr. Fein at the board's first meeting of 2018 to start the process.

The Financial Disclosure form was updated to correspond to the newly enacted Ethics Code. Members of the BOE received Financial Disclosure forms and complied with Local Law#3 – 2016 Section 4(b). The board also, reviewed and determined that the BOE's existing Internal Rules and Regulations did not warrant any revisions as a result of the enactment of Local Law#3 2016 – Code of Ethics.

Advisory Opinions

Two requests for an Advisory Opinion were received. The board met in executive committee and rendered an opinion on both requests. (Attached)

Formal Complaints

No complaints were received in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Luria, Chair
East Greenbush Board of Ethics