

TOWN OF HUDSON

Code of Ethics Committee

6:30PM July 8th, 2019

Minutes

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jared Stevens at 6:30PM in the Board of Selectmen meeting room.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Coughlin.

Roll Call:

Present: Jared Stevens; Todd Terrien; Kimberly Rice; Heather Smalley; and Shane Coughlin.

All members were present.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

The Code of Ethics entered into attorney client session at 6:33PM.

The Code of Ethics reentered into public session at 6:53PM.

1. Public Hearing – Michael Drouin

Chairman Stevens invited Michael Drouin to speak and begin the public hearing.

Mr. Drouin: I believe that I was wrongly removed from the Conservation Commission by the Board of Selectmen. They did not state a reason as to why I was removed. Their reason was that I had contact with somebody. I feel that they had unfairly removed me from the position. They accused me of things which are regarded as hearsay. Selectmen Martin said that their evidence was hearsay and so it could not be upheld in court. After speaking twice, they said that I was not forthcoming, and they proceeded to remove me. I watched the meeting, and I do not see where I was not forthcoming. Apparently, it was when they had asked if I had spoken with anybody. I was transferred by a secretary and it went to voicemail. No reasonable person would remove a volunteer who spends hours trying to improve the town. The Board of Selectmen have targeted me and other members of the Conservation Commission; this is out of line. They have denied all

four of my applications for various Boards and Committees without reason. Perhaps this is because I ran against them for the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Stevens: We have all had the opportunity to watch the Board of Selectmen meeting, and so we are not going to watch it again tonight. I heard your complaints, and I understand your frustration. However, I do not see where there is a violation of the Hudson Code of Ethics. We are not an appeals court that people can go to when they are upset with other boards. Are you asking us to reinstate you as a member to the Conservation Commission?

Mr. Drouin: Yes.

Chairman Stevens: We do not have this power. Our powers are very clearly spelled out in the Code of Ethics. This complaint is not an ethics complaint.

Mrs. Rice: I agree with Chairman Stevens. You are failing to state a claim which is in our jurisdiction. We do not have the authority to review this.

Motion by Chairman Stevens, seconded to Mrs. Rice, to dismiss Mr. Drouin's ethics complaint. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Rice, seconded by Mr. Terrien, to approve the minutes of 6/25.

The motion passed 5-0.

3. Board Reorganization

Mr. Terrien nominated Mrs. Rice to be Chair. Nominations closed, and Mrs. Rice was confirmed 5-0.

Mrs. Rice nominated Mr. Terrien for Vice Chair. Nominations closed, and Mr. Terrien was confirmed 5-0.

Mrs. Rice nominated Mr. Coughlin for Clerk. Nominations closed, and Mr. Coughlin was confirmed 4-0-1. (Mr. Coughlin abstained)

Motion by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Mrs. Rice, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

The Code of Ethics Committee adjourned at 7:02PM.