

Ethics Committee Minutes
Town of Killingworth, CT

Date: April 7, 2025

Location: Hybrid (Remote Access/Town Hall, Killingworth, CT)

Members in Attendance: Robert Rimmer (Chairperson). Gail Buller (Clerk), Michele Amendola, Ellen Oppenheimer

Guests: One unverified guest joined for a portion of the meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by R. Rimmer at 7:03pm.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2025 was made by E. Oppenheimer and seconded by M. Amendola. The minutes were approved by the four members in attendance.

Routine Business:

- R. Rimmer stated that because only four members are in attendance, the Committee would not make large changes, but just have a more general discussion.

Continuing Business:

- **Drafting a Code of Ethics**
 - Prior to the meeting, G. Buller e-mailed the committee members a “working copy” of the Code of Ethics. It was decided that the discussion would center on this document.
 - A general discussion was held on what changes could be made to various sections and whether forms should be included in the Code as examples or be given to the future Ethics Commissions as templates that they could change. No decision was made.
 - It was discussed that the Ethics Committee could hold a “general input” meeting in the future where the Killingworth community would be encouraged to attend and offer their ideas before the Committee votes on a final draft of the Code.
 - R. Rimmer discussed whether a section on self-reporting financial disclosure was necessary. G. Buller said she would look at Codes of Ethics from other Towns to see if and how this matter is addressed. E. Oppenheimer and R. Rimmer discussed the possibility of adding to the section on Conflict of Interest to state that one should recuse themselves from any vote where they or their immediate family has a financial interest.

- There was a general discussion around the process of filing a complaint with the Ethics Commission and how the timeline could possibly interfere with other proceedings the complainant may want to pursue. This discussion dove-tailed into a renewed discussion on the necessity of a section on Harassment and Discrimination as many of these matters could be addressed at the State level by Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities or through the criminal justice system. G. Buller suggested that the option could be listed in the Code of Ethics, reminding possible complainants that if they wanted to pursue complaints beyond the Ethics Commission, they need to be mindful of the timeline and procedures required by those proceedings.
- G. Buller and M. Amendola discussed coming to the next meeting with more concrete ideas about revising the Code. R. Rimmer identified ten areas where he sees a need to discuss content at the next meeting. He will outline these in the upcoming agenda.
- [Action item]: We will not make any changes to the current working copy of the Code so that we can come to the next meeting, discussing and making suggestions for changes based on how it is at this time.
- [Action item]: G. Buller will now send a copy of the minutes to all Committee members at the same time she submits them to the Town Clerk.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by R. Rimmer at 8:25pm.

Next Meeting: May 5, 2025, 7:00pm, Killingworth Town Hall and virtually through Teams (link on Town calendar).

Minutes Prepared by: Gail Buller