



# Town of Hamden

## *Board of Ethics*

*Meeting Recording:*

C:\Users\plemoine\Documents\Zoom\2023-04-11 18.56.46 Board of Ethics - April 11, 2023\video1648193102.mp4

*(for viewing, please copy and paste the above link to your browser)*

**Minutes: The Board of Ethics**, Town of Hamden held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023**, via virtual Zoom; the following issues were discussed:

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Kent called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
  - a. Attendance: Philip Kent, Chairman; Jean Larson; Ann Pari; Dr. Lynda Rosenfeld; Ellen Rosenthal, Edward Simon; also in Attendance: Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; and Patrice LeMoine, Commission Clerk

2. **Comments from the Public:** N/A.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Changes

Correct Eileen Rosenfeld to Ellen Rosenthal.

Ms. Larson made a motion to approve the amended minutes from the March 14, 2023 meeting, and was seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld. The chair called for a vote:

P. Kent	aye	L. Rosenfeld	aye
J. Larson	aye	E. Rosenthal	aye
A. Pari	aye	E. Simon	aye

The vote passed unanimously.

4. **Correspondence:** Mr. Kent noted that any member of the Board of Ethics who has a term that has expired and is interested in still serving on this Board, to please submit your letter of interest to the Town Clerk's office and you will then hear from the mayor with confirmation.

At 7:12 p.m., Mr. Simon entered the meeting.

5. **New Business:**

- a. Report on inquiries re advisory opinions/ potential complaints: N/A

- b. Discussion regarding Public Comment during a meeting and establish or review guidelines. The Board confirmed that when someone from the public wishes to speak before the Board, that up to two minutes will be given to the party/person.

**6. Old Business:**

- a. Final Review of the Ethics Code, Rules and Regulations – Prior to this evening’s meeting, Chairman Kent sent to everyone Dr. Rosenfeld and his notes and comments to the Code of Ethics, rules and regulations. His changes and comments are in red, and Dr. Rosenfeld’s are in blue. The commissioners then reviewed all the noted comments and recommended changes. Attorney Gruen asked, at the legislative council’s request, for the Board to follow a new rule from “he/her/him/she” to “they/their.” This is a more neutral usage for any of the town’s documents, and she then offered to review and make the document in final form to accommodate this rule.

Mr. Kent reviewed and compared the Ethic Code to meet and agree the language in the current Town Charter, adopted August 2022. He identified those areas of the Code where he compared to the Charter.

The Board then went to review the Ethics’ Rules and Regulations document. Attorney Gruen addressed the need to amend the section regarding officers of the Board. She then noted the importance of electing or delegating a member of the Board to preside over the meeting, especially when there is a probable cause hearing or a deadline. The Board agreed to address this subject at the next meeting. The Board continued to compare the Rules and Regulations to the Town Charter where applicable.

Before ending the above discussion, Mr. Simon questioned if the vote that was passed last month regarding public comment and the new guideline will be added to the rules and regulations and posted to the Board of Ethics webpage. It was agreed to add the information to the Rules and Regulations and the webpage.

The Board will review the final edits and documents for final approval at the May meeting.

**7. Confidential Session, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-82a and §7-148h: Mr. Kent requested a motion for the Board to go into confidential session.**

At 8:51 p.m. Mr. Kent requested a motion to go into confidential session. Ms. Pari motioned and was seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld seconded. The chair called for a vote:

P. Kent	aye	L. Rosenfeld	aye
J. Larson	aye	E. Rosenthal	aye
A. Pari	aye	E. Simon	aye

The vote passed.

At 9:09 p.m. chairperson Kent requested a motion to come out of confidential session. The motion was made by Mr. Simon and seconded by Ms. Rosenthal. The chair then called for a vote:

P. Kent	aye	L. Rosenfeld	aye
J. Larson	aye	E. Rosenthal	aye
A. Pari	aye	E. Simon	aye

**8. Executive Session** (if required): No request was presented.

**9. Adjournment:** At 9:10 p.m., Ms. Larson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Patrice A. LeMoine, Commission Clerk