

**BOARD OF ETHICS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2021**

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
15 BEDFORD ROAD
ARMONK, NY**

Public Meeting

DATE: December 7, 2021

TIME: 8:31 a.m. called to order

PLACE: Virtual meeting conducted via Zoom

PRESENT: Board of Ethics Members

Brett Summers, Chair

Kerri Kazak, Secretary

Edward Lobermann

Susan Shimer

David Simonds

Charity Lunder, Alternate

José Berra, Town Board Liaison

1. Call to Order

At 8:31 a.m. the meeting was called to order by the Chair.

2. Revision and Adoption of Agenda

S. Shimer moved to adopt the agenda, E. Lobermann seconded. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

3. Old Business - Update on Mt. Kisco Ethics Education Issue

Twice this year a member of the Mt. Kisco Planning Board has had to resign over ethics violations. B. Summers expressed his belief that one of the violations could have been avoided with ethics training. S. Shimer stated that the nuances and details in the Mt. Kisco case highlight why there should be ethics training which should be part of our approach to the Town Board for why there should be education. J. Berra noted that education can help especially with people who are considering a violation because they will understand and be reminded that there are consequences. B. Summers told the group that the County Referendum that passed on November 2nd revised the County Ethics Code so that mandatory education is now required. All officers and all elected officials, department heads and attorneys are required to have annual ethics education within the next 6 months.

4. New Business

4.1 Annual Report to the Town Board

B. Summers explained that he thinks an annual report to the Town Board is important. K. Kazak noted that there is no requirement for the Board of Ethics to give an annual report and questioned whether the group couldn't approach the Town Board about an education program in a way other than an annual report. S. Shimer suggested that perhaps it would be better to meet individually with Town Board members and then do a report to the Town Board.

B. Summers noted that as part of the annual report we could tell the Town Board about the Mt. Kisco situation and about the new education requirement at the County level, and remind them about the need for an education component. E. Lobermann expressed that it is not in the Board of Ethics best interest to pursue an annual report and he agreed with K. Kazak and S. Shimer that there are better ways to pursue an education initiative and it could be unproductive to make it the focus of an annual report. He further noted that since the Supervisor seems to have a different view from the Ethics Board about the need for an

education component, addressing it at a public meeting might not be the most productive approach.

D. Simonds expressed that it is a healthy part of our work for the Town that we go before the Town Board once a year and he supports Sue's recommendation that we assess the value of making recommendations before scheduling the annual report. B. Summers agreed that it's important to prevent surprises. C. Lunder agreed with D. Simonds that it is important to speak once a year especially since the County referendum passed so soundly it shows that it is important to people. K. Kazak suggested that we should approach each individual Town Board member and then regroup to discuss next steps, as there is no reason that the annual report has to be in the 1st quarter, it could be in the 4th quarter to talk about the year in review.

4.2 Alternate Member for Ethics Board

B. Summers noted that we still need another alternate to be appointed, which is another reason to get before the public. E. Lobermann stated that the vacancy is being announced by the Town Clerk at every Town Board meeting. S. Shimer suggested that B. Summers could put in a plug for an alternate at the public comment section of the Town Board meeting. B. Summers agreed with this suggestion adding that he would tell the Town Board ahead of time that he was going to do this.

5. Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2021 Meeting

D. Simonds moved to approve the draft minutes of the July 1, 2021 Board of Ethics meeting, and S. Shimer seconded. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

6. Date for Next Meeting - February 10th at 8:30 a.m.

Agreed to meet one week prior to the Town Board meeting on February 16th in the event that enough groundwork has been laid for B. Summers to speak at the Town Board meeting. B. Summers will update the Ethics Board at the February 10th meeting of his progress in speaking with each Town Board member.

7. Communications to the Board of Ethics

D. Simonds updated the board that he was interviewed by the Town Board and was reappointed to serve on the Board of Ethics for 5 more years.

8. Adjournment

At 9:22 a.m. S. Shimer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and E. Lobermann seconded. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

The public meeting ended at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Kazak
Kerri Kazak Secretary

March 23, 2022
Date