

Town of Thompson  
Ethics Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Kathleen Herbert Jimmy Andrews Al Landry Ray Dewey	Jason Akana	Ken Beausoleil Cathy Thomas

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2015 meeting**

Ray motioned, Al 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved. Unanimous.

**3. Citizens' Comments**

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**4. Discussion of Revised Draft Ethics Code:**

*a. Recusal form*

Kathleen informed the committee that Paul Baer sent her the sample recusal form.

*b. Sample Complaint Form*

Kathleen passed around a sample complaint form.

*c. Review of Document vs. "Local Government Ethics Programs in a Nutshell" (based off of Ray's questions below)*

*i. Page 5; I like "to stop ethical misconduct before it becomes criminal misconduct"*

The committee agrees.

*ii. Pages 9 & 18; expands on the definition of "recusal"*

The committee agrees.

*iii. Page 18; campaign contributions, same as political?*

Still up in the air...campaign contributions are usually allowed and not considered gifts.

*iv. Page 21; financial disclosure required*

Reviewed the State's disclosure requirements. Some feel it may be too burdensome.

*v. Page 24; minor matters such as gratuities at Christmas not gifts*

It will be classified the same way as business meals are classified. If the gratuity is given outside the scope of Town duties, it will not be classified as a gift.

*vi. Page 27; annual report required of Ethics Commission*

An annual report will be provided to the Selectmen.

*vii. Page 28; cronyism and patronage related to "nepotism"*

We will add both to our definitions classified the same way as nepotism.

*viii. Page 28; pet charities*

We have decided to leave charities out.

*ix. Page 29: not allowing complainant to withdraw*

The committee likes this idea that once a complaint is submitted, it cannot be withdrawn.

*x. Page 29: public dismissal of baseless complaints*

Yes.

*d. Review Hiring Policy , Immediate Family, Nomination of Ethics Commission and Appointment*

Decided to remove aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews from immediate family. Everything else is fine.

*e. Multiple Agency positions*

The committee likes what we have written.

**5. Committee Comments**

Jimmy mentioned to Ray that the potential new fiscal disclosure shows the requirement to list creditors of \$10k and greater is quite low and maybe that should be upped to \$50k. Further discussion is needed overall.

**6. Citizens' Comments**

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**7. Adjourn**

Kathleen motioned, Jimmy 2<sup>nd</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

Next Meeting: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jimmy Andrews  
Secretary, Ethics Advisory Committee