

Weston Board of Ethics

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 8:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88185678909?pwd=VU5yV1JlK3VpK1Z3NXpVZXlOSVl4dz09>

Meeting ID: 881 8567 8909

Passcode: 818532

Dial by phone: 646 558 8656

- 1- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:01pm. Present were Board of Ethics Chair Bill Weiss (*acting, for this meeting, as Secretary*), Member Ruth Israely and Member Aarti Khosla.
- 2- **February 24, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes:** Ms. Israely moved to approve the meeting minutes; Ms. Khosla seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3- **Election of Secretary:** Member Ruth Israely offered her name to be considered as Secretary to the Board of Ethics and was unanimously approved as the Board Secretary going forward.
- 4- **Discussion of Draft Questions and answers from the meeting of 2-24-2021:** Mr. Weiss asked if there were questions about the previously circulated guidance answers provided by his May 4, 2021 Zoom meeting with the Town Attorneys, Administrator and First Selectman. A discussion followed about the ambiguity in the Code pertaining to the Board's powers and jurisdiction with regard to the Board of Education and whether members of that Board came under the purview of the BoE. Ms. Israely will seek guidance from the Town Council on this issue and request that the Code be revised to eliminate this ambiguity.
- 5- **Mission Statement Review:** The Board reviewed the Mission Statement as approved at the January 27, 2021 meeting. Ms. Israely will send it to the Town Administrator for review and approval.
- 6- **Complaint Form(s) Review:** A discussion and review of the Board's (full) Complaint Form ensued which was approved with minor changes. Ms. Khosla suggested that there should exist a simplified, 'Preliminary Form' that a complainant could submit with minimal effort by providing a brief overview of their complaint. The Board can then assess it's jurisdictional opinion prior to having a complainant spend the considerable time needed to submit the full complaint form, only to find that the Board may have no jurisdiction in the matter. The Board will create the 'Preliminary Form' and Ms. Israely will send these two forms to the Town Administrator for review and approval.

- 7- Board of Ethics representation on the Town Website:** Concurrent with the discussion of items 5 & 6 above, there was discussion regarding increasing the BoE's presence on the Town website. The Board wishes the public to have easy access to the Charter, BoE code, a simplified interpretation of the Ethics code, links to the complaint forms and other pertinent information. Ms. Israely will ask for guidance from the Town Administrator regarding how the BoE's web presence can be augmented and how this can be facilitated.
- 8- Adjournment:** Ms. Israely moved to adjourn, and Ms. Khosla seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.