

BOARD OF ETHICS MEETING December 8, 2010

A special meeting of the Darien Board of Ethics was held on December 8, 2010, in room 213 of Town Hall which was recorded for broadcast on Channel 79.

Members present: Thomas Moore, Chairman; Gene Coyle, Vice Chairman; Carolyn Schoonmaker; and Mary Guimond, temporary Clerk
Members absent: James Cameron
Guest: Mr. J. Wayne Fox

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss any changes to Darien's Code of Ethics and to discuss a framework for creating a conflict of interest policy.

Members previously had carefully examined the Code of Ethics ordinances and after discussion, including comments by Mr. Fox, all agreed that no changes to Darien's Code of Ethics are necessary. Chairman Moore will so advise TGS&A committee.

Discussion turned to a draft document entitled Conflict of Interest Policy. All agreed that implementing a process whereby all elected and appointed town officials must regularly sign a conflict of interest form and/or file a financial disclosure form would be onerous and unnecessary. Instead, it was agreed that an Ethics Policy be written, in substance the same as the Code of Ethics but in a clearer format, and distributed to all elected and appointed town officials along with other pertinent information normally disseminated upon election or appointment. Ms. Guimond will contact the Town Clerk to discuss how this may be done and will report back to the board at the next meeting. Ms. Guimond also agreed to draft the new Ethics Policy document for review at the next meeting.

All agreed to finalize the draft of the updated Complaint Form after discussion about the ability for an anonymous complaint, which is permitted under Code and is indicated on the form. A minor change was made to the newly drafted Request for Advisory Opinion Form that allows for this form to be used only by Town Officials (defined on the form) which mirrors how other towns use this document.

The updates and changes agreed upon do not require the approval of the RTM; however, at our next meeting, we will discuss how we will inform the RTM and all other town officials of the new forms, updates and changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted on December 13, 2010, by:

Mary Guimond