

TOWN ELECTIONS BOARD
TOWN ETHICS COMMISSION

JOINT WORKSESSION MINUTES

May 26, 2015

Persons present:

Steve Lawton, Chair, Elections Board
Bob Charrow, Board member
Barry Hager, Chair, Ethics Commission
Scott Fosler, Commission member
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Others present:

(see sign-in sheets)

On May 26, 2015, at 7:12 p.m., in the Town Hall, the Ethics Commission and Elections Board held a joint meeting to discuss potential changes in Town election and ethics laws, in response to a request from the Town Council. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Lawton, who distributed an agenda and outline for the discussion at the outset of the meeting, copies of which are attached.

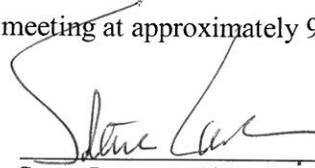
Discussion was held on the composition of the Elections Board and Mr. Charrow's recent appointment.

Comments were received by residents in attendance on the recent Town election and proposed changes to Town election and ethics laws, including from John Barnes, Gerald Garfinkel, Ben Delancy, Deborah Vollmer, Rose Miller, Mary Flynn, Dedun Ingram, and John Murtagh. Councilmember Fred Cecere responded to questions about the election. Councilmember John Bickerman responded to questions about the Town notices that had indicated that the election was to be uncontested. He noted that he did not see the Town Forecast, containing such notice, until after it had been published. Councilmember Strom noted that Town staff had prepared the notice, based on a template used in prior years when the election was uncontested. Mr. Bickerman declined to address whether Council members that knew about the "stealth campaign" had a duty to correct the notice, for the benefit of the residents, as he had not prepared to do so prior to the meeting and did not believe it was relevant to the evening's discussion. However, he offered to speak with any resident about the matter after the meeting.

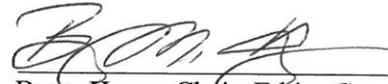
The Commission and Board members present then discussed Items 1 through 6 on the outline. The meeting was adjourned prior to addressing Items 7 and 8. Mr. Lawton stated that a joint report would be prepared for the Council, pursuant to the Council's request. Mr. Lawton asked Mr. Fosler to prepare a summary of the election and background information. Mr. Lawton stated he would provide a summary of the Elections Board's proceedings. Mr. Lawton asked Mr. Hager to prepare a summary of the Ethics

Commission's proceedings. The separate summaries will be merged into a joint report. No action was taken. It was agreed that discussion about proposed changes will occur at a subsequent meeting.

Hearing no objection, Mr. Lawton adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:21 p.m.



Steve Lawton, Chair, Elections Board



Barry Hager, Chair, Ethics Commission