

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK ETHICS BOARD 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Ethics and Disclosure law of the Town of Woodstock, Section VIII Ethics Board, C Powers and Duties, number 8 requires the Ethics Board to "... prepare and submit an annual report to the Town Board summarizing the activities of the Ethics Board, listing any recommended changes to the text or administration of the Local Law." Herewith is our 2016 annual report:

MEMBERS:

Allison Dodd - Serving 3 year term (2016, 2017, 2018)

Paul Washington – Serving 3 year term (2016, 2017, 2018)

Neil Ratner – Serving 3 year term (2015, 2016, 2017)

James Huben – Appointed June 2014: Completing term expiring December 31, 2016

- On November 14, 2016 - Mr. Huben indicated he would not be serving another term

Iris York – Appointed January 2016: Completing term expiring December 31, 2016

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Again, the Ethics Board decided not to appoint an official Secretary, but to continue rotating the responsibilities. There is no obligation under the Ethics and Disclosure Law to have a secretary, but we are required to elect a Chairperson, and Allison Dodd was re-elected as the Chairperson.

VOLUNTEER DAY, AUGUST 2016:

Several members attended the Town's Volunteer day

ANNUAL DISCLOSURE FORMS:

Performed review of annual disclosure forms.

ETHICS INQUIRIES: The following matters were resolved without any involvement from the Town Board Cases 2016-1, Case 2016-2, Case 2016-3, Case 2016-4

ETHICS LAW UPDATES:

During 2015, the Ethics Board concluded our comprehensive review of the Ethics Law, not only addressing the changes suggested by the Town Supervisor and Town Board, but also other provisions in light of the Ethics Board's experience and best practices. These recommendations were submitted on June 14, 2015. In May 2016, the Town Supervisor, Jeremy Wilber, provided us with a new set of proposed change to the Ethics Law, which incorporated some, but not most of our views submitted in June 2015. As of yearend, while an individual Town Board Member attended Ethics Board meetings to ask questions and express views, this matter remains unresolved.

CONTINUED RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Ethics Board met with the Town Clerk, Jackie Earley, to review the Ethics Disclosure Form and process. It was determined that certain improvements to the process were agreed upon.

2016 Meetings:

The Ethics Board scheduled eight meetings and met seven times during 2016 (February 1, February 29, March 28, April 18, September 19, November 14, December 12) based on business need.

Respectfully submitted by the Woodstock Ethics Board - 2016