

TOWN OF WEARE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Code of Ethics

Preamble:

The citizens of the Town of Weare are entitled to responsible, fair, honest and accountable town government that operates in an atmosphere of mutual respect and civility. Accordingly, the Town of Weare has adopted this code to:

1. Describe the standards of behavior to which its leaders and staff should aspire.
2. Provide an ongoing source of guidance to elected officials, volunteers and staff in their day-to-day service to the town.
3. Promote and maintain a culture of ethical conduct.

On (date adopted), the voters of the Town of Weare adopted this Code of Ethics, which applies to all Town employees, officers, committee members, and elected or appointed officials, and is contained in the following pledge:

Responsibility:

- I serve the community with dignity and respect, as well as being an agent of the democratic process.
- I consider carefully the impact of my actions on public confidence. I maintain integrity at all times and consistently do what I believe is in the best interests of the community.
- I am a prudent steward of public financial, natural, and cultural resources, and actively consider the impact of my decisions on the fiscal and social stability of the Town and its citizens.
- I do not use my office or the resources of the Town for personal or political gain of myself, my family, friends, or associates.

Fairness:

- I promote consistency, equity and non-discrimination in public agency decision-making, which I base on the merits of an issue, including facts, research, reasoned opinions, etc.
- I encourage diverse public engagement in our decision-making processes, and support the public's right to know.

Respect:

- I treat my fellow town officials, staff, committee members and the public with patience, courtesy, civility, and respect, even when we disagree on what is best for the community and its citizens.
- I maintain confidentiality.
- I encourage public input and listen to all sides. I am sensitive about other people's time.

Honesty:

- I am honest with all with whom I interact in my official capacity. I will disclose any matters that might present a conflict of interest and will recuse myself when appropriate. (Recuse means to withdraw from discussion and voting.)
- I am prepared to make decisions when necessary for the public’s best interest, whether those decisions are popular or not.
- I take responsibility for my actions, even when it is uncomfortable to do so.
- I cooperate with the Ethics Committee when it is acting upon any complaint or inquiry alleging violation of this Code of Ethics.

Confidential Information:

- I will not disclose any confidential information acquired by virtue of my position for personal benefit, or for the benefit of any other person or business. This does not apply to information that is readily available to the general public.
- I will not violate the privacy of others by disclosing information confidentially acquired in the course of my duties without a legitimate reason to do so.

Exclusions:

I understand that this Code of Ethics does not bar me from:

- fully participating in Town Meetings
- accepting donations for financing a political campaign consistent with state law.
- participating in matters relating to persons or businesses from which I have merely purchased good or services with no other conflict of interest
- carrying out personnel policies regarding employees under my supervision.

I have read the Town of Weare Ethics Code and understand its expectations.

Please Print Name

Signature

Date