

Town of Weare Ethics Committee

November 1, 2023

Members Present:

Neal Kurk (NK), Wendy Curry (WC), Eileen Meaney (EM)

Members Absent:

Luke Drake (LD) Suzanne Couhie (SC).

1. Call to Order: 7:05 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reviewed agenda for 11/1/23.
4. Reviewed minutes from the meeting held on 10/25/23

NK made a motion and EM seconded to accept minutes as written.
Minutes accepted by unanimous vote.

5. Reviewed Draft FAQ document. EM will make edits based on discussion, with possible addition from Dunbarton Ethics Committee FAQ document for review/discussion at meeting on 11/15/23.
6. Discussion regarding having official Weare Ethics Committee email. Naomi will inquire with BOS at next meeting regarding feasibility of having a Weare town email.
7. Questions regarding EC-P1 and EC-PS documents and what minutes they should be added to. EC-P1 added to minutes for 9/6/23 and EC-P2 added to minutes for 9/20/23.
8. Document EC-P1 will need to be revised and reposted to town website. EM will do this for meeting on 11/15/23.
9. Document EC-P2 needs highlight removed to be posted on town website. Naomi Bolton will remove highlight when posting.
10. Communications- none received.

11. Meeting schedule: Meetings in November and December to be held the first and third Wednesday

11/15 at 6:00pm

12/6 at 6:00pm

12/20 at 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen P. Meaney

Weare Ethics Committee
Town Office Building
15 Flanders Memorial Road
Weare, NH 03281

FAQ

About the Town of Weare Ethics Committee.

1. What is the Weare Ethics Committee and what does it do?

The Town of Weare Ethics Committee is a committee of 5 townspeople who have been elected at town meeting to support the Town of Weare Code of Ethics (attached below and available in paper copy at Town of Weare Clerk's Office) through providing education, advice, and a process to hear and decide complaints from townspeople regarding ethical issues.

[APPENDIX D \(nh.gov\)](#)

2. Who does the Weare Code of Ethical Conduct apply to?

The Weare Code of Ethics, attached above, was adopted through town vote in March of 2006. This Code, which describes a set of standards of behavior that its leaders and staff should aspire to, is signed by and applicable to all Town of Weare employees, as well as elected and appointed officials. This list includes Town of Weare Board of Selectman, as well as the boards and committees listed here :

[Boards | Weare NH](#)

3. I think I have an ethics question, but I am not sure who to talk to about it or what steps I should take. Is there someone I can consult with, or a process??

Yes. Information about the scope and services of the Ethics Committee can be found here:
LINK TO DOCUMENTS.

In general terms, The Town of Weare Ethics Committee can address ethics issues in 3 ways: A general ethics question or concern can be brought forward anonymously, in writing to the committee through an established process (see attached) and the committee can provide general opinion and guidance at our regularly scheduled meetings.

A general ethics question can be brought forward in writing to the committee through an established process (see attached) and the committee can be asked for a Written Advisory Opinion, which they will render.

A specific ethics complaint can be brought to the committee, in writing using the established process (see attached) and the ethics committee can provide a formal hearing process for the complaint, with a finding.

Only residents of the Town of Weare can avail themselves of Ethics Committee services. There are other requirements to using each of these options that are outlined in the procedure document attached above.

4. Are Ethics Committee opinions the same as legal rulings?

No. Ethics Committee opinions, advise and outcomes are not the same as legal rulings, and are only advisory in nature.

5. I am still not sure if this is the right way to address my concern. How do I find out?

Feel free to send an email to weareethics@wearenh.gov.... Drop a letter in our mailbox at _____ or come to one of our regularly scheduled meetings. You can find a schedule posted here

LINK.