

TOWN OF DUNBARTON
Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes
7/11/06

Present: Gayle Troy, Brett St.Clair, Brigitte Cook, Gary Maccubin

Meeting started at 7:30 PM

Gayle moved to accept the Hearing minutes from 6/13/06. This was seconded by Gary, and the motion passed.

Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher (Paul and Teresa) were present to discuss an Ethics complaint against Selectman Les Hammond and the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen.

Brett reviewed the purposes of the meeting: to see if the complaint is within the purview of the committee; and to determine whether the complainants had exhausted all other means within town government to resolve their complaint.

The Committee reviewed and clarified the Schumachers' complaint:

- The Schumachers' primary complaint is they did not get a fair hearing before the Board of Selectmen. The Schumachers would like to put up a sign on Route 13, advertising their home (on Barnard Hill Road) for sale.

Brett explained to the Schumachers that the Board of Selectmen did have the authority to adopt ordinances and that the details of the ordinance itself were outside the scope of the Ethics Code. He also said that the Ethics Committee had received correspondence from the Selectmen stating that the Schumachers did not request a formal meeting with the Selectmen. The Schumachers stated that they had been told by an employee at the Town Offices to "show up" at the meeting and had thought that was sufficient.

- Their secondary complaint was stated in the third paragraph of their written complaint. They believe that Selectman Les Hammond should have recused himself from speaking or voting on the Dunbarton Sign Ordinance because he is employed as a realtor in town. They believe this was a conflict of interest, or at least has the appearance of a conflict of interest.

In reviewing the complaint, the Ethics Committee advised the Schumachers to call Town Administrator Janice Vandebogart and ask to be included on the agenda of the next Selectmen's meeting.

If such a meeting does not resolve the Ethics issues, the Schumachers can return to the Ethics Committee and continue the process.

Next regularly scheduled committee meeting is Tuesday September 12th at 7:30 PM at the
Town Offices

Meeting ended at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Brigitte Cook