

TOWN OF BARRE  
Conflict of Interest Policy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2018

The Barre Town Conflict of Interest Policy Committee (COIP) held its third meeting on September 5, 2018 starting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the municipal building. Committee members present were: Lee Walther, Norma Malone, Alan Garceau, Chauncey Liese, Cedric Sanborn, Mike Gilbar and Jon Valsangiacomo. Also present was town manager Carl Rogers.

Chairwoman Norma Malone called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Cedric Sanborn, the COIP voted 7-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Gilbar made a motion to approve the August 21, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Alan Garceau seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The COIP resumed its review of the VLCT model policy. Gilbar reported a VLCT staff attorney suggested not making any exemptions, such as for the Development Review Board and Board of Civil Authority, in the definition of public body. Gilbar reported the attorney said the conflict of interest policy is the first level of guidance for these boards.

The COIP voted all in favor of a motion by Lee Walther and seconded by Chauncey Liese to adopt the definition of the public body (4E) of the model policy.

Review of Article 5 began. Liese made a motion to adopt Article 5 as written in the model policy. He withdrew his motion after a brief discussion.

Some other towns used Disqualification for the title instead of Prohibited Conduct. There was discussion about the legal definition of the two. Jon Valsangiacomo pointed out the two terms might not have the same meaning. He suggested using Prohibited Conduct. Consensus of the COIP was to keep the model policy title, Prohibited Conduct.

Walther suggested amending 5F as follows: delete "give the impression that he or she has the authority to"; after body add "without the consent of that public body."

There was discussion about deleting the phrase "whether real or perceived" in 5A. The consensus was to delete it.

Regarding 5B, it was noted only one town amended it. Consensus was to keep 5B as written in the model policy. 5C was considered acceptable as listed in the model. In 5D the COIP felt the word "will" should be replaced with "shall". The COIP's consensus was 5E was good as written in the model policy.

Liese made a motion to accept Article 5 as presented except for the three amendments discussed this evening. Gilbar seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Review of Article 8, Recording, began. Malone asked why it was needed. Liese noted it reinforced that decisions be recorded in minutes. The COIP decided to skip over this Article.

After talking over Article 9, Post Recusal Procedure the Committee thought it was okay as written. Gilbar moved and Sanborn seconded that Article 9, Post Recusal Procedure be adopted as written. The COIP voted 7-0 in favor of the motion.

Gilbar made a motion, seconded by Garceau, to accept Article 10, Enforcement, as written plus necessary edits (for adding Selectboard and reference to Article numbers). The COIP approved the motion without dissent.

Gilbar moved to accept Article 11, Exception, as written plus necessary edits for adding Selectboard and changing Article number 8 to 7. Walther seconded the motion, and the Committee approved it unanimously.

The Committee went back to Article 8, Recording. Gilbar moved to adopt that article as written, except to change the reference to Article 8 to 7. Liese seconded the motion, which was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Gilbar moved to adopt Article 12, Effective Date as written and insert Selectboard. Valsangiacomo seconded the motion and the Committee voted all in favor.

The Committee and town manager discussed next steps. Plans were made for the recommended policy to be on the September 18 Selectboard meeting agenda. COIP members were encouraged to attend.

On a motion by Sanborn, seconded by Liese, the Committee voted to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Conflict of Interest Policy Committee

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