

Town of New Canaan, Connecticut
Ethics Board
2020 Annual Report

Like the rest of the world in 2020, New Canaan's Ethics Board saw its work disrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic. The Board was able to meet only twice, once in person and once via telephone conference. The Board nevertheless handled the following matters:

As part of the Board's mission to increase awareness of the Town's Ethics Code and the role of the Ethics Board, several members made a presentation on the Code and the Board's Advisory Opinion functions at a meeting of the local Republican Town Committee.

The Board received and evaluated a non-conforming, anonymous complaint on a purported ethics violation. The issue identified therein was resolved through an informal conversation with the apparent Respondent. The Board subsequently learned that the anonymous complainant had sent the purported complaint to other Town officials in contravention of State and local confidentiality laws.

No formal ethics complaints or requests for Advisory Opinions were filed in 2020.

The Board discussed the Town's Police Department Gift Exception Policy with the Town Police Commission, and has been advised that the Department's Policy was reapproved in November.

The Board responded to a Connecticut Freedom of Information request received from a Town citizen.

The Board responded to an informal request from a Town official about the scope of the Town's Ethics Code.

A member of the Board attended several workshops of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

As the year ended, the Board re-elected its two officers and bid farewell to inaugural member Margaret Jay who, after 5 years of outstanding service to the Town, has left the Board after reaching the maximum of two terms served. Replacing her for a 3-year term is new member Alexandra Van Nes.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Clauss, Jr., Chair
Tammie Garner, Secretary
Robert Schott
Steven Simon
Alexandra Van Nes

February 8, 2021