

Town of New Canaan, Connecticut
Ethics Board
2018 Annual Report

2018 was another busy year for the Town Ethics Board which met seven times during that time and handled the following matters:

The Board received and evaluated a complaint reiterating a fifteen year old grievance that had previously been addressed and dismissed by the Board. After reviewing the newly filed complaint, the Board also dismissed it and filed a public resolution to that effect. The Board received one other formal complaint during the year that was withdrawn by the Complainant shortly after it was filed. The Board also had informal discussions with several Town citizens about activity that fell outside the scope of the Ethics Code.

Following the November 2017 enactment of the new Ethics Code, the Board developed two forms to be used in connection therewith: a Complaint form and an Advisory Opinion form to be used by those who serve the Town when seeking guidance on Ethics issues they may confront. Those forms were finalized in early 2018.

With the help of the Town's IT department, the Board got its website up and functioning. Among other things, it contains links to the Town's Ethics Code and the two forms referenced above.

At the request of the First Selectman and the Town's Human Resource Director, the Board prepared and proposed a new Whistleblower Policy for the Town. In October, 2018, the draft Policy was circulated by the Town's Human Resource Director to various Town bodies for review. In mid-January 2019, the Town received comments and suggestions from the Board of Education and forwarded those comments to the Board for its consideration.

The Board also identified certain issues arising from possible appellate duties of the Board and discussed those with the First Selectman and the Town's Human Resource Director. After review by the Town's attorney, it was determined that a revision to Town ordinances would be required to address the issues the Board raised. The Board suggests that the Town Council take up these issues at the same time it addresses other potential amendments or revisions to Town ordinances.

Two members of the Board attended the Town's Freedom of Information workshop in January, 2018.

As part of the Board's mission to increase awareness of the Town's Ethics Code, and the role of the Ethics Board, three Board members made a presentation to the Town's Technology Advisory Committee about the new Ethics Code. The Board also communicated with the chairs of other Town bodies about the Board's willingness to make this presentation to any other group that would find it useful.

As the year ended, the Board re-elected our two officers and bid farewell to inaugural member Pat Calanca who, after two years of excellent service to the Town, is leaving the Board. Replacing her for a 3-year term will be new member Robert Schott.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Clauss, Jr., Chair
Tammie Garner, Secretary
Margaret Jay
Robert Schott
Steven Simon

February 11, 2019