

Town of Goshen – Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Hybrid – Town Hall and Zoom

Attendees:

David Bonaguide (Chair)

Jonathan Moore (Secretary)

John Krukar

James Lefevre

James Thibault

Guest: Scott Olson (Board of Selectmen) (attended by Zoom 6:07-6:20 PM approximately)

1. Call to Order

Chair David Bonaguide called the meeting to order at approximately 6:07 PM.

2. Discussion with Selectman Scott Olson

Scott Olson joined the meeting to share his views on the town's ethics code. He expressed strong support for implementing a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct at the town level. His key points included:

- A preference for clear, enforceable standards, including specific definitions of conflicts of interest, with some “teeth”.
- He favors a single “filter” for complaints (other than the board of selectmen).

He supported the town pursuing a municipal-level structure that includes well-defined procedures and accountability mechanisms.

3. Update on Absent Selectmen

Dexter Kinsella and Todd Carusillo were unable to attend the meeting.

Motion: Invite both to the next meeting to appear individually (following the structure used for Scott Olson).

Motion by: James Thibault

Seconded by: James Lefevre

Vote: Unanimously approved

4. Committee Discussion

John Krukar shared a past incidents where an ethics process may have been invoked. This highlighted the need for clearer ethics policies and enforcement procedures.

Jonathan Moore agreed to prepare an initial draft revision of the 2008 Goshen Code of

Ethics, stripping out references to regional and state ethics commissions that have not come into effect. This version will serve as a working basis for future meetings.

Jonathan also raised several key structural questions the committee will likely consider as it reviews the revised code:

- Should the code establish a specific council or board to review ethics complaints?
- Should that body be elected or appointed?
- How many members should serve?
- To whom should findings be submitted (e.g., Board of Selectmen, town meeting)?
- What measures can help prevent misuse of the complaint process (e.g., discretion to dismiss complaints, confidentiality during initial review, etc.)?

5. Next Steps

- Jonathan will circulate the revised draft ahead of the next meeting.
- Selectmen Todd Carusillo and Dexter Kinsella will be invited to attend individually.
- The committee will begin substantive review of the draft and outline structural options.

6. Adjournment

Motion: John Krukar

Second: James Thibault

Vote: Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jonathan Moore

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Moore". Below the name, there is a large, stylized flourish or initial that appears to be "J.M." enclosed in a circular shape.

Received June 19, 2025 @ 10:46 A.M.

Attest Barbara Z Brun
Goshen Town Clerk