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Ethics Commission

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Town of Fairfield

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Minutes-Meeting of April 30, 2009

A meeting of the Ethics Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Thursday, April 30, 2009 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of Independence Hall.

Members present: James Finnerty, III, Chairman, Mark Reed, Vice Chairman, Kevin Flynn, Dr. George Lacovara and Richard Miller. Members absent: none. In attendance was Ms. Nancy Rice. Meeting called to order by Chairman Finnerty at 4:35 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Finnerty noted that there was a quorum of members and asked for the approval of minutes of last meeting held December 10, 2008. Dr. Lacovara made the motion and motion seconded by Mr. Flynn. Carried unanimously.

Ms. Rice addressed the Commission on a matter that concerns her regarding the Deer Population Sub-Committee established by the Fairfield Conservation Commission. Her opinion is that bias exists on the subcommittee because of three members that sit on it. These members are either supporters of hunting and are gardeners and wildlife advocates who feel the deer population is negatively affecting bird habitats and gardens. Ms. Rice further stated that she felt this subcommittee goes beyond the normal scope of the duties of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Rice also alleges that the subcommittee improperly restricted anti-hunting advocates from participating in public sessions. Discussion followed. Dr. Lacovara stated he was not sure this was any violation of the Fairfield Code of Conduct and was not yet convinced it falls under the purview of the Ethics Commission. Chairman Finnerty asked questions from Ms. Rice and then explained to her the probable cause procedures the Ethics Commission follows. He then asked if she would supply as much information as she could to the Commission to aid in its investigation. Ms. Rice complied by handing over a packet consisting of notes, e-mails, letters and minutes of Conservation Commission meetings, minutes of Deer Population Committee meetings as well as the Bylaws of the Fairfield Conservation Commission.

At 5:05 p.m. Chairman Finnerty moved the Commission enter into Executive Session. Motion made by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Flynn.

At 5:17 p.m. meeting opened to the public.

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Rice to give the names of all the members of the Deer Subcommittee. Ms. Rice complied with the request. Chairman Finnerty explained to Mrs. Rice that the Ethics Commission would look further into this matter. Mr. Reed made

the following motion: *That the Fairfield Ethics Commission continue to investigate this matter and consult Fairfield Town Attorney to assist in their investigation.* Motion seconded by Dr. Lacovara and carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. Flynn. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Miller
Secretary