

RESOLVED: That upon the request of at least two RTM members, the Conflict of Interest provision of the RTM Rules of Procedure is hereby replaced with an Ethics provision. (Full text as follows.)

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING RULES OF PROCEDURES

Article VI. Code of Ethics

Sec. A162-20 Purpose of the RTM Code of Ethics

It is a guiding principle of the RTM that its members be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people of the Town of Westport. To ensure that the public retains full confidence in the integrity of the RTM the following Code of Ethics is hereby adopted.

Sec. A162-21 General Standard; Responsibility of the RTM Members; Conflicts of Interest; Misuse of RTM Position or Resources

A. Responsibility of RTM Members:

It shall be the responsibility of all RTM Members to carry out their official duties to the best of their abilities and with the highest moral and ethical standards. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner to be above reproach and be in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and codes, including the Town Charter, Town Ordinances and the Rules of Procedure of the RTM.

B. Conflicts of Interest for RTM Members

All members should be most sensitive to permitting an actual conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest to exist, even though a complete disclosure of all circumstances would show that an actual conflict did not exist in a particular case. The individual member shall decide in any given situation whether he or she is faced with such conflict. Such decision shall not preclude the Representative Town Meeting from determining that a conflict of interest does, in fact, exist; but the determination of the Representative Town Meeting shall not prevent the member from voting or participating.

C. Misuse of RTM Position or Resources

RTM Members shall not use the power or authority of their position in any manner intended to induce or coerce any person or entity to provide, directly or indirectly, anything of value which shall accrue to the private advantage, benefit, or economic gain, of the RTM Member. As used in this section, the term “private advantage, benefit, or economic gain” means any advantage, benefits or economic gain, distinct from that enjoyed by members of the public without regard to official status or not resulting naturally from lawful and proper performance of duties.

Sec. A162-22 Ethics Concerns

Potential ethics concerns should be discussed with the RTM Moderator or the RTM Deputy Moderator for resolution as appropriate.

Sec. A162-23 Ethics Code & Conflicts of Interest Acknowledgements

RTM Members, at the start of each term, shall sign and submit to the Town Clerk an acknowledgement form stating that they have read and agree to uphold the “RTM Code of Ethics” and relevant guidelines as adopted by the RTM. RTM members, at the start of each term, shall sign and submit to the Town Clerk the Town Disclosure Form related to “Conflicts of Interest.”