Meeting of the Task Force for the Protection of Town Volunteers and Officials March 11, 2024 Meeting Easton Town Hall, 7PM

The meeting was called to order by Nicholas D'Addario at 7:05PM.

Members Present: Nicholas D'Addario

Paul Lindoerfer

Maureen Williams

Darin Bershefsky

Gerry O'Brien

Chairman Nicholas D'Addario spoke about moving the date for the submission of findings of the Task Force from the first week in April to the first week in May. He also presented a draft of the Civility Pledge which covers most of the salient points we are looking to stress. Maureen Williams expressed caution over the "self-correcting" and accountability language included in the draft. A final draft is being worked on.

Further discussion of the use of placards or signs to reinforce the tenets of the Civility Pledge. Chairmen of the Committees should do their part as well to make sure all their members and public understand the Pledge and meaning of it. Also we need more strict adherence to the swearing in of newly elected or re-elected volunteers.

Agreed to include a clause on the Liability Insurance the Town provides for employees and Volunteers. It reads as follows:

"With regard to liability coverage, as long as the specific event or claim triggers coverage and the employee or the volunteer used council assigned by Travelers, then yes there would be coverage. Volunteers fall under the definition of an insured if the suit stems from an incident that occurred while in their capacity as a volunteer for the Town."

This is necessary to quell any fears that Volunteers may have about liability.

Maureen Williams spoke about the possible need of adding to or rewriting the preamble to the Code of Ethics. More on this at a later date.

Darin Bershefsky suggested the addition of both Grievance Procedure Information and an FAQ section to both the website and possibly into the handbook.

Paul Lindoerfer introduced an outline titled "Information for town residents to understand expected behavior in interactions between citizens and town employees or volunteers." The outline covered much of what we are looking to achieve going forward and we may be using it as a template and a guide. Chairman D'Addario said he would consolidate some of the information gleaned tonight and bring it to the next meeting.

Minutes of the last Meeting were moved by the Chair to be approved as written seconded by Maureen Williams and carried.

Chairman moved to adjourn at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Gerry O'Brien/Secretary