

**Board of Ethics
Village of Mamaroneck
Minutes of the Meeting
November 5, 2020**

In attendance: Mark Ettenger, Deborah Chapin, Jefferson Meighan, Yoram Miller and Christy Mason, Esq., by invitation, all parties participating by video conference.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ettenger at approximately 4:00pm.

Upon motion by Mr. Meighan, seconded by Mr. Miller, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meetings of August 3, 2020; August 14, 2020; August 17, 2020; September 14, 2020; September 17, 2020 and October 6, 2020.

The Board then met with the Ad Hoc Ethics Code Review Committee to assist it in its analysis of the current Code of Ethics and answer questions about the Board of Ethics' process. Members of the Board expressed the view that the Code was a very workable statute designed to be more comprehensive and restrictive than New York State law, setting a high standard for ethical conduct. Board members stressed that the confidentiality aspects of the Code are critical to the workings of the Board of Ethics. While certain members of the Board of Trustees had incorrectly cited the wide ranging investigations and subpoenas as impetus for reform, the Board corrected this stating that the current board had only conducted one investigation and issued 2 subpoenas, all in the Goldstein matter. Over 5 years there had been only 3 further investigations and no other subpoenas. In addition to the factual correction, the Board emphasized that the ability to subpoena witnesses and documents was a rarely used, but important tool for a body that has investigative authority both to secure evidence and to provide comfort to witnesses who might not want to be perceived as volunteering. The Board shared information about the number of inquiries, advisory opinions and other matters it had considered over the terms of the current members, as well as the recent politicization of ethics matters in the Village.

The Board will share with the Ad Hoc Committee the recommendations for revisions to the Code that it has made to the Mayor and Board, none of which have been acted upon, and the calendar for receipt and review of annual disclosure forms that it established.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 pm.