

Town of Sharon
POLICY REGARDING CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Code of Conduct

(a) A member or representative of the Selectboard has an affirmative obligation to conduct the affairs of his or her office, whether as a member of the Selectboard or as a volunteer or staff member of a Committee, Commission or Sub-Committee, in such a manner as to instill public trust and confidence. Thus, any person associated with the Selectboard shall take all reasonable steps to avoid any action or circumstance, whether or not specifically prohibited by this policy which might result in, or create the appearance of:

- (I) Undermining his or her independence or impartiality of action;
- (II) Taking official action on the basis of unfair considerations, unrelated to the merits of the matter;
- (III) Giving preferential treatment to any private interest, or interest of any affected state agency on the basis of unfair considerations, unrelated to the merits of the matter;
- (IV) Using the office of the Selectboard for the advancement of personal interest;
- (V) Using the office of the Selectboard to secure special privileges or exemptions; or
- (VI) Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Sharon Selectboard.

(b) A member or representative of the Selectboard shall not take any official action in any particular matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest or in which there is an appearance of a conflict of interest that, in the members' view, will undermine public confidence.

(c) A member or representative of the Selectboard shall not take any official action that advances the interest of a private entity with which he or she is actively seeking employment or a significant financial relationship.

(d) A member or representative of the Selectboard shall not disclose to any private entity any confidential or privileged information for the purpose of advancing his or her, or anyone else's, pecuniary interest.

(e) A member or representative of the Selectboard shall not solicit or receive any payment, a gift, or favor based on any understanding that it would influence any official action.

(f) A member or representative of the Selectboard shall not use or permit the use of Town property unless reasonably related to his or her official responsibilities.

(g) The Selectboard may, by majority vote, determine that a Selectboard member is ineligible to participate in a matter before the Selectboard because of a violation of this Policy.

B. Resolving Conflicting Interests

A staff member or a Selectboard member who has an outside interest which would appear to be or have a potential conflict of interest with his or her responsibilities at the Town of Sharon will disclose such an interest to the Chairperson and will abstain from Selectboard activity in connection therewith.

In the event a staff member or Selectboard member is uncertain whether he or she or any other staff or Selectboard member has a conflict of interest in any matter, he or she may request that the Selectboard determine whether a conflict of interest exists and the Selectboard shall resolve the question by majority vote. If the Selectboard concludes that the staff or Selectboard member has a conflict, the Selectboard shall have the right to exclude that person from voting or taking action on the subject matter. Prior to action being taken by the Selectboard, any staff or Selectboard member may request that the Selectboard go into executive session to determine whether a conflict of interest exists as to another Selectboard or him/herself.

"Conflict of Interest" means a pecuniary interest of a member of the Selectboard, or such an interest, known to the Selectboard, of a Selectboard or his or her immediate family or household or of a business associate, in the outcome of any particular matter pending before the Selectboard. "Conflict of Interest" does not arise where the interest is no greater than that of other persons generally affected by the outcome of the matter.

Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Selectboard July 8, 2010.