

NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

SHEEHAN PHINNEY BASS & GREEN PA

MOOSILAUKE ROOM

APRIL 24, 2017

10:00 AM

Meeting called to order by Chairman Joseph DiBrigida, Jr.

Present: Dale Keuhne, Alan Johnson, Gregory Silverman

Also Present: Deputy Attorney General Ann Rice and John Formella (Governor's Office)

- Committee discussed a complaint from Raymond Buckley , Chair of the NH Democratic Party, against Governor Christopher Sununu pursuant to RSA 21-G:31 V. Several factors were discussed such as this being a violation in promoting his own interests in a ski resort, he has a financial interest in Waterville and cannot promote this, unfair marketing platform – not including other ski/mountain resorts, perception of competition for tourism, inadvertent use of words on social media - twitter, complaint not completed correctly to be filed, deminimis action – dismissal, can complaint be dismissed – based on complaint form, as a public official should be aware of ethic's codes and violations, public officials being unfairly targeted and can he be held accountable and in what ways be deemed appropriate. It was mutually agreed upon that informal methods will prevail and a letter will be issued and no legal action taken. The Governor's Office – John Formella will speak with Chris Sununu about carefully selecting text while speaking and in the use of social media not to favor any one area over another. It appeared to be an innocent mistake and he will be reminded to be in compliance with the ethics laws and rules.
- The Committee also discussed an anonymous complaint filed against property ownership by Joseph W. Mollica, Chairman of NH Liquor Commission. This complaint was to address property that he is the landlord of where a business is operating and registered under Suna, LLC – a restaurant and licensee of NH State Liquor Commission. Joseph Mollica responded in a letter that he has retained ownership of the property but has no financial interest in the business. Discussions created a mutual opinion to dismiss. However, topics were raised and deliberated over the facts that this was an anonymous complaint and doesn't follow the protocol to be

heard under the Ethics committee, raised concern that Commissioner Mollica does not have a financial interest in Suna, however, potentially oversees that the business maintains their operations and function in a reputable manner and maintain high standards as a Commissioner with State. It was mutually agreed upon by all the committee members that this complaint may be dismissed at this time as it does not meet the requirements for filing with the Ethics committee.

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2017 at 8:00 am at Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green. Topics to include but not limiting to rules.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Connell  
Recording Secretary