

**\*\*\* PUBLIC SESSION \*\*\***

**NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**SHEEHAN PHINNEY BASS + GREEN PA  
MOOSILAUKE ROOM**

**May 6, 2015  
8:03 AM**

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Meeting called to order by Chairman Joseph DiBrigida, Jr.

Present: Jim Normand, Alan Johnson, Dorothy Graham

Excused Absence: Dale Kuehne

Also present: Senior Assistant Attorney General Richard Head

- The committee members reviewed the draft minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting and approved them.
- The Committee continued its discussion for an Advisory Opinion regarding attendance at overseas meetings and conferences for which all costs are reimbursed or waived. Committee members reviewed the Legislative Ethics Committee site for Opinions, Rulings and Interpretive Ruling for guidance and discussed Interpretive Ruling 2013-1. Dorothy Graham pointed out language in the ruling stating that the conference must be “primarily focused on communicating information relating to matters” and further must be of a “genuine and central element” to the attendees job position and to the State. Jim Normand brought up the idea of an Affidavit that would require the public official to certify that the conference meets the criteria for travel. It was again suggested that the percent of time spent on tourist/non-work related activities as opposed the meetings and conferences could be important to the Committee’s evaluation. The question was asked how much legwork is the Committee required to do to opine these types of trips. It was suggested that a Joint Meeting with the Legislative Ethics Committee would be very beneficial. The discussion was again tabled until a joint meeting could be held.
- Joseph DiBrigida discussed the Report on Rules from the meeting with JLCAR he attended with Ann Rice. He reported that JLCAR believes that some of the rules were inconsistent with the statute establishing the Committee, that some rules delegated too much power and authority to the presiding officer. It was also reported that JLCAR believes the statute needs clarification in some areas, and thus require legislation to amend the statute before implementing some of the rules. The Committee has until June 1, 2015 to either, amend the rules, withdraw the rules or submit them without any changes. The Committee decided to request an extension of time so that the committee can discuss them at the next meeting when Ann Rice and Dale Kuehne will be present.

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Cawelti  
Recording Secretary