



Angie Lopes Ellison
Town Administrator

Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Office of the Town Administrator
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Tel: (508) 979-4023
alopesellison@fairhaven-ma.gov

August 11, 2023

Peter Deterra
279 Mill Road
Fairhaven, MA 02719
peterdeterra@outlook.com

Dear Mr. Deterra,

My office has attempted to contact you and left several messages attempting to schedule a meeting to discuss reports made to me that were addressed at the beginning of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on August 1, 2023. As stated to the collective Board at the opening of the meeting, it was brought to my attention that there had been chain deliberation, an Open Meeting Law violation in addition to conflict of interest and potential ethics violations posed on some issues coming before the Board.

As a regulatory board it is required that all members act under every aspect of the Open Meeting Law which includes not deliberating outside of meetings on matters to come before the Board. Chain deliberation or speaking with a quorum of members collectively or individually as well as advocating for a specific decision and a vote on an issue that an individual board member has a vested interest in financially, personally or otherwise can lead to that individual being held personally liable.

The reports made to me are very serious and require attention. Please contact my office at 508-979-4023, ext. 2 and schedule a time to meet with me as soon as possible. If I do not hear back from you by Monday, August 21, 2023 regarding this matter it may be necessary to escalate it to the next steps including referring to the Select Board for review and potential action as well as to the State Ethics Commission.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Angie Lopes Ellison
Town Administrator

CC: File/Town Counsel

Peter DeTerra
279 Mill Rd
Fairhaven, MA 02719

August 18, 2023

Town Administrator
40 Center St
Fairhaven, MA 02719
alopesellison@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Ms. Ellison,

I'm in receipt of your letter date August 11, 2023, in regards to the Board of Appeals. I was not present at said meeting and did not participate in any way in that meeting. If you have evidence of inappropriate deliberation, ethics violations or Open Meeting Law violations please forward them to me in writing.

As a board member I understand my role and responsibilities on the Board of Appeals, and I maintain the highest level of ethics and morals. If you feel there is a situation that you need to bring to my attention regarding myself or a board member, please do so in written form so I may immediately address this issue. The best form of communication is in writing so we have no misunderstandings and everything is on the up and up.

You state the reports made are very serious and require attention. I assure you as soon as you send me written copies of these reports, I will address them in an appropriate way. We all have a common goal of serving the residence of Fairhaven in the best way we can.

I look forward to working with you to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,



Peter DeTerra