

Cc: Shawn Joyce
Date: 05/14/2022 3:01 PM
Subject: RE: Ensuring Rye's Government Supports Diversity

Hello Bill:

Thank you for getting back to me.

I respect it is the selectboard's prerogative not to have a public discussion about my 4/27/22 email at the meeting on 5/10/22. However, I do not understand why it was not noted on the agenda under Correspondence as part of the public record like any other emails and letters sent to the BOS.

The justification you give for the appointment process is totally contradictory to what was promised by Keri Roman, Phil Winslow and you at the selectboard meeting on 4/13/20. Please see page three of the attached minutes as well as my letter on page 16. If you and the selectboard, at that time, did not consider a position to be open if a current member was seeking reappointment, that would have been made clear in the discussion and minutes of that meeting.

Now that Mr. King is a selectman, there is a new interpretation of when a seat is considered open and ironically his wife was immediately reappointed to the RCC without any chance for other residents to be considered. Basically, RCC members are now afforded with lifetime appointments, which far from the norm in other NH Towns. Ethically, Mr. King should recuse himself from any discussion or decision involving his wife and the RCC. Not doing so is a clear conflict of interest.

As you know, the RCC is unlike other commissions and committees, the selectmen have no authority over the RCC other than appointing its members. The RCC is entrusted with millions of dollars of taxpayer money. You state that the town's commission do not discriminate on any basis. However, you and the town cannot be sure of that. Without having a public application, keeping public records for all residents interested in serving, and the BOS publicly interviewing all residents seeking appointment, it allows the RCC's leadership to overly control the commission and discriminate behind closed doors.

In well run towns such as Exeter, they follow best practices. Members are not reappointed without other residents being considered. There is a public application and all residents are afforded the opportunity to be interview by the BOS. Their conservation commission also adopted bylaws to ensure they had well defined, consistent guidelines and to ensure that members do not dominate the commission. Under Membership and Terms of Office, *Members may serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms and are eligible for alternate member position after maximum terms are served.* That really speaks of their ethics, integrity and placing inclusiveness of others over themselves. You can find these best practices at the following link.

<https://www.exeternh.gov/bcc/board-and-committee-appointments>. I have also attached the application as well as the bylaws so you can review them. Past BOS boards asked the RCC to adopt bylaws. However, it went nowhere.

Rye residents are still hoping that the BOS will act on its fiduciary responsibility to ensure a fair, open, public, transparent process with appointment and choosing diverse members. It right thing

to do so folks do not continue to question the ethics of Rye's government. It also would ensure the Town does not become party to litigation for not safeguarding fair process and non-discriminatory practices. In closing, I respectfully request that this email be noted on the 5/23/22 BOS meeting agenda and included in the meeting minutes as part of the public record.

Thank you. Respectfully - Shawn