

**Raymond Ethics Committee**  
**April 6, 2005**

- I. Co-chairman Pat Larney called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at 6:30pm at the Raymond Town Hall. Committee members also present were:

Sandy Ellis, Co-chairman  
Gretchen Gott  
Emery Landis  
Marilyn Semple

There were no members of the public present and the meeting was not televised by RCTV.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The proof of posting was reviewed.

- II. Members discussed the recent article in the Rockingham County News, published on April 2, 2004. Members felt that because of the number of inaccuracies in the article, the Ethics Committee should submit a letter to the editor in response, in order to correct the mistakes. After discussion, the following letter was agreed upon for submission:

*The Raymond Ethics Committee would like to thank the Rockingham County News for the media coverage provided for our March 30, 2004 meeting. We, as a committee, always welcome any opportunity to bring our message to the residents of Raymond. There are, however, inaccuracies in the article that we would like to correct.*

*First, our speaker was Susan Slack, Esq., not Susan Slacker as reported.*

*Secondly, she was not representing the State of New Hampshire in any official or unofficial capacity. Ms. Slack works for the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), a private, non-profit organization that offers information and general guidelines to member towns, one of which is Raymond. Her function that evening was to provide members of the Ethics Committee with insight into RSA 91-A and to answer generic questions posed by the Ethics Committee.*

*The third inaccuracy is the connection of generic questions to a specific case. The committee at no time intended to imply anything by the questions asked of Ms. Slack about the handling of non-public information. The hypothetical question posed was, what is to be done if a public servant violates 91-A. The answer, however, is not exactly "simple." As Ms. Slack explained, there are different procedures for members of different boards. For some boards (i.e. land use boards), there is a provision under which a violator can be removed from office. No such provision exists for Selectmen. And, nowhere in her explanation, did she even refer to a School Board policy. Actually, the best recourse for offices not requiring removal, in her opinion, would be at the ballot box.*

*The fourth inaccuracy is the statement that the "State sees a violation." There was no discussion of a specific case in which to make finding of a violation and there was no-one at the meeting that indicated that they were representing the state.*

*The Ethics Committee endeavors to provide education to our public servants, volunteers, and dedicated town employees. Our goal is to educate, not litigate. In addition, the Ethics Committee has established procedures for inquiries and complaints. The public and public servants must follow this established procedure. It is inaccurate to think that the Ethics Committee would discuss a complaint without following procedures.*

*The Ethics Committee welcomes the public to meetings, either in person or by watching RCTV. The Ethics Committee also welcomes the press and would welcome accurate reporting.*

*Sincerely,  
Raymond Ethics Committee  
Sandy Ellis, Co-chairman  
Gretchen Gott  
Emery Landis  
Pat Larney, Co-chairman  
Marilyn Semple*

A motion was made by Sandy Ellis and seconded by Marilyn Semple to submit the above letter to Rockingham County News for publication. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

- III. A motion was made by Emery Landis to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Gretchen Gott. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.