

Mathews County Planning Commission

CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted August 16th, 2022

Recognizing that persons who have been appointed to public office have been given a public trust which demands the highest levels of ethical and moral conduct, any person serving on the Mathews County Planning Commission will adhere to the following Code of Ethics.

1. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and regulations of the United States and of the State of Virginia and County of Mathews therein and never knowingly be a party to their evasion.
2. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to the citizens of Mathews County above loyalty to individuals, districts, or particular groups.
3. Give a full measure of effort and service to the position of trust which has been granted, giving earnest effort and best thought to the performance of duties.
4. Seek to find and use the most equitable, efficient, effective, and economical means for getting tasks accomplished.
5. Adopt policies and programs that do not discriminate against any citizens, and which support the rights and recognize the needs of all citizens regardless of race, sex, age, religion, creed, country of origin or disability.
6. Adhere to the principle that the public's business should be conducted in the public view by observing and following the letter and spirit of the Freedom of Information Act.
7. A Planning Commission member should never accept for himself or herself or for family members, favors or benefits under circumstances that might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of governmental duties-or personal gain.
8. Make no private promises of any kind, since a public servant has no private word that can be binding on public duty.

9. Create a positive environment in meetings of the Planning Commissions.
10. Be open minded and patient. Allow all citizens, employees, colleagues or staff sufficient opportunity to present their views.
11. Avoid comments, body language or distrusting activity that conveys a message of disrespect or lack of interest.
12. Prepare for in advance all scheduled meetings relevant to the office.
13. Respect the rights of colleagues to have different opinions. Enter into constructive and factual discussions when attempting to resolve issues or reach a consensus, refraining from disparaging remarks.
14. Never use any information gained confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means of making private profit.
15. When any misconduct, neglect of duty, or corruption is discovered, the members of the Commission, as a body, shall. Notify the Board of Supervisors and pursue their direction.
16. Avoid using the position of public trust to criticize colleagues or citizens by impugning their integrity or vilifying their personal beliefs in public or through the media.
17. Make sure, when responding to the media and public, that a clear distinction is made between personal opinion or belief in a recommendation made by the Planning Commission.
18. Review orally and in public session at an annual meeting each of these principles.
19. Pledge to honor and uphold these principles, ever conscious that appointed office is a public trust.