

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Stephen P. Mattscheck,
Respondent**

Complaint No. 2022-1

ORDER

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on January 24, 2023, pursuant to 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the arguments of the parties, and the proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED

THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted;

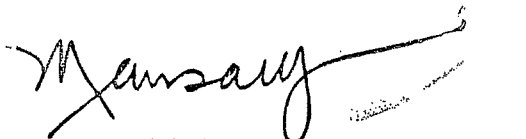
THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, the Respondent violated Rhode Island Gen. Laws § 36-14-16(a)(5) by failing to disclose on his 2016-2020 Financial Disclosure Statements his interest in real property designated as 0 Hallville Road, Exeter, Rhode Island;

THAT, the Respondent violated Rhode Island Gen. Laws § 36-14-16(a)(5) and Commission Regulation 520-RICR-00-00-4.11 Leadership Positions with Not-For-Profit Organizations (36-14-17008) by failing to disclose on his 2016-2020 Financial Disclosure Statements his positions on the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Public Works Association and the New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association; and

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,



Chairperson

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INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

The Respondent, Stephen P. Mattscheck, and the Ethics Commission Prosecutor, representing the People of the State of Rhode Island, hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows, subject to the approval of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”):

I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS

1. The Respondent served as the Director of the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) for the Town of Exeter from April 2007 through October 2022.

2. Since 1986, the Respondent has been the sole owner of a 4.9-acre parcel of vacant land designated as 0 Hallville Road (Lot 37-1-9) in Exeter, Rhode Island.

3. The Respondent did not disclose his ownership interest in the 0 Hallville Road property in response to the Real Estate question on his 2016-2020 Financial Disclosure Statements (“2016-2020 Statements”) filed with the Commission.

4. From 2015 through 2022, the Respondent served on the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Rhode Island Public Works Association (“RIPWA”), a non-profit corporation. The Respondent served as Treasurer of RIPWA during 2015 and 2016, and as its President from November 2017 through November 2022, when he resigned from the Board.

5. The Respondent did not disclose his service on RIPWA’s Board in response to the Family Executive Positions question on his 2016-2020 Financial Disclosure Statements.

6. The American Public Works Association (“APWA”) is a non-profit corporation with a principal place of business in Kansas City, Missouri. APWA consists of 63 chapters nationwide, one of which is the New England Chapter (“NEAPWA”).

7. NEAPWA is governed by a Board of Directors (“Board”), also known as its Executive Committee, which is comprised of 32 members. The Respondent served on NEAPWA’s Board from January 2016 through December 2022, and he held the position of President from December 2021 through December 2022, when he resigned from the Board.

8. The Respondent did not disclose his service on NEAPWA’s Board in response to the Family Executive Positions question on his 2016-2020 Statements.

9. On April 26, 2022, subsequent to the filing of the instant complaint, the Respondent amended his 2016-2020 Statements to include the disclosure of his ownership of the 0 Hallville Road property in response to the Real Estate question and of the executive positions he held in RIPWA and NEAPWA in response to the Family Executive Positions question.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. As the DPW Director for the Town of Exeter, a municipal appointed position, the Respondent was subject to the Financial Disclosure mandate of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16(a)(5).

2. On his 2016-2020 Statements filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to disclose his ownership interest in real property designated as 0 Hallville Road, Exeter, Rhode Island, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-17(b)(3).

3. On his 2016-2020 Statements filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to


disclose his service on RIPWA's Board of Directors, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-17(b)(6) and Commission Regulation 520-RICR-00-00-4.11 Leadership Positions with Not-For-Profit Organizations (36-14-17008).

4. On his 2016-2020 Statements filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to disclose his service on NEAPWA's Board of Directors, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-17(b)(6) and Commission Regulation 520-RICR-00-00-4.11 Leadership Positions with Not-For-Profit Organizations (36-14-17008).


III. SETTLEMENT

Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Respondent and the Commission Prosecutor agree, subject to the approval of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and Commission Regulation 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), to the following:

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment adopting the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and terms of the Settlement herein.
2. The Respondent agrees that the Ethics Commission will impose a civil penalty in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) which the Respondent agrees to pay.
3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement relative to the conduct set forth herein and in Complaint No. 2022-1.


Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)
Commission Prosecutor

Dated: Jan. 12, 2023


Stephen P. Mattscheck
Respondent

Dated: 1-12-2023