

Board of Ethics

Gina Merlo, Chairperson

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To: Town Board of Cambria, Sanborn, New York
From: Town of Cambria Board of Ethics, Gina L. Merlo, Chairperson
Date: March 30, 2026
Subject: Advisory Opinion Matter 2026-01

To Whom it May Concern,

On March 25, 2026, the Town of Cambria Board of Ethics investigated, discussed, and rendered its Advisory Opinion on Matter 2026-001. As noted in public record, this meeting was fully attended by the following:

Linda Hardt, Committee Member
Gina Merlo, Chairperson

Ruth Pattison, Committee Member
Abraham Platt, Esq., Town of Cambria Attorney

It is the formal opinion reached by unanimous consensus of the Town of Cambria Board of Ethics, that Matter 2026-001 does not constitute a violation as outlined by the *Town of Cambria Ethics File, Chapter 10, Article II. Code of Ethics, Standards 10-5*. The situation outlined by A. Platt, Esq. regarding public appearance of perceived impropriety by the Town Board in considering an application filed by an employee of a Town vendor, who also happens to be the spouse of a Town employee, to participate in a stipended voluntary position of Zoning Board Alternate, does not rise to a *New York State Municipal Law 801* concern.

It was the unanimous decision of the Town of Cambria Board of Ethics, that Matter 2026-001, does not constitute any legal or technical concern in accordance with any New York State Laws, Town of Cambria laws, or Town of Cambria precedented hiring policies. It was also noted that the Town of Cambria presently entertains several instances of employee - spousal/family involvement in professional capacities, elected positions, and various committee work. There are also many instances both historic and current, of elected officials, zoning participants, and planning participants whose livelihoods could be directly impacted by decisions rendered by the various committees and positions currently entertained by the Town of Cambria proper.

Therefore, it is the unanimous opinion of the Town of Cambria Board of Ethics, that instances such as those outlined in Matter 2026-001 do not rise to a level of concern of perceived impropriety until the Town of Cambria laws, statutes, and hiring policies are amended to preclude them. It is hereby recommended by the Town of Cambria Board of Ethics that Matter 2026-001 be dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina L. Merlo, Chairperson

