

Discipline Case: 2013-04

Subject Member: Registered Professional Forester

Referred to: Complaints Resolution Committee

Date of Decision: January 16, 2014

Allegations

This case resulted from a complaint submitted on April 22, 2013 from a non-member regarding the conduct of an ABCFP member in a public hearing. The complainant was in attendance at a public hearing regarding the proposed re-zoning of property within the Regional District where the subject member spoke out. The complainant alleges that the subject member spoke out in favor of the rezoning, while not disclosing his past business/professional relationship with the proponent, leaving the impression that he was speaking as a member of the general public. The complainant alleges that this input may have influenced the Regional District's decision on the re-zoning.

The complainant alleges that the following bylaws apply in this complaint:

1. Bylaw 11.3.2 To uphold professional principles above the demands of employment.
2. Bylaw 11.3.6 To work to extend public knowledge of forestry, and to promote truthful and accurate statements on forestry matters.
3. Bylaw 11.4.1 To inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in conduct and daily work.
4. Bylaw 11.4.4 Not to misrepresent facts.
5. Bylaw 11.4.7 To state clearly on whose behalf professional statements or opinions are made.

Subsequent to the lodging of the complaint, the subject member requested that the public hearing minutes be revised to reflect his prior business relationship with the proponents. He also clarified that he is a RPF. No evidence was presented to indicate that the member's comments had any impact of the re-zoning decision.

Decision

After reviewing the allegations of the complainant and the subsequent remedial actions taken by the subject member with the Complaints Resolution Committee, the registrar concluded that this complaint should not proceed.

The case is now closed.