Emergency Craftsbury Selectboard Regular Selectboard Meeting

Friday, May 23 - 9am at Town Hall and Zoom

Present: Jim Jones, Bruce Urie, Alison Blaney & Michelle Warren

Agenda:
Open Meeting Violation Complaint

The Selectboard reviewed the Open Meeting Violation Complaint by James LaRock. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:30am.

Sincerely,
Michelle Warren

Gmail

Craftsbury Town <craftsbury@gmail.com>

Complaint under 1 V.S.A. 314

James LaRock <jamesmlarock@gmail.com> Wed, May 21, 2025 at 6:53 AM
To: Craftsbury Town <craftsbury@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am writing to complain that the Town of Craftsbury Selectboard violated the Vermont Open Meeting Law on May 20, 2025. Specifically:

The Selectboard's agenda for its regular meeting on May 20, 2025, lists as item number 4 "Discuss Sand & Gravel Gravel Pit - Kurtis Mellett." The agenda listed a start time of 7 PM. This matter is important to me as a neighboring landowner. I signed on to the Zoom meeting a few minutes early to ensure that I would not miss this discussion.

The Town Selectboard was already having the discussion. Mr. Mellett had arrived early and all three members of the Selectboard were engaged in conversation with him about this substantive agenda item. It appeared that the members of the Selectboard reached an agreement with Mr. Mellett about how operations would proceed at the gravel mine in the near term. The Town did not record this conversation, the Town's clerk was not present to take minutes of the conversation, and the Selectboard members were visibly not taking minutes.

This violated numerous sections of 1 V.S.A. 312, including, but not limited to:

1. Section 312(a)(3)(B), which requires all public bodies to electronically record all meetings. The meeting began without being recorded.

2. Section 312(b), which requires minutes to be taken of all public meetings. "The minutes shall cover all topics and motions that arise at the meeting and give a true indication of the business of the meeting." The meeting began before the Town's clerk arrived to take minutes and none of the members of the selectboard were taking minutes.

3. Section 312(c)(1), which provides that "the time and place of all regular meetings subject to this section shall be clearly designated by ... resolution." The Town's resolutions and the meeting's agenda listed a start time of 7 PM, but the meeting in fact began before 7 PM.

I also note that the Vermont Open Meeting Law requires the Town's website to provide information about how to file a complaint under the Vermont Open Meeting Law. 1 V.S.A. 314(e). The Town's website does not provide this information. Accordingly, I am sending this to the Town's clerk.

This is written notice that the Craftsbury Town Selectboard has violated the Vermont Open Meeting Law under 1 V.S.A. 314(b)(1). Under 1 V.S.A. 314(b)(1), the Town must respond to this notice within 10 business days. This response must be public. After the Town responds, the Open Meeting Law authorizes aggrieved members of the public to file a complaint in the Civil Division of the Superior Court of Orleans County for appropriate injunctive relief or a declaratory judgment.

I await your response. Thank you,

James LaRock
151 Gateway Drive
Craftsbury, VT 05826
(413) 426-0721