

Thank you for responding, Rose.

I am very interested in rallying support for a new bill next session, one that 1) requires Towns to post to their websites all warnings and agendas 36 hours prior to the meeting, and minutes within three days even if not yet approved; 2) requires public officials to file for public review all emails related to Town business; 3) requires all boards and committees to provide specific detail for each agenda item, such that interested parties may attend and offer comment; and prohibits use of social and/or electronic media during meetings by board and committee members to communicate with people not present at the meeting, unless their communication is broadcast to all in attendance.

Towns in our neighborhood routinely do not post warnings and agendas in public places and have ceased posting to the website; if questioned, Town officials say that someone must have taken it down. It is also common practice to use fundamentally the same ambiguous agenda for years, hiding important discussion from the public under categories such as "approval of invoices" or "town plan updates" or "planning commission check-in" with no detail provided. Perhaps worst of all, boards and commissions have already decided many matters before them via email prior to the meeting, so that the public is on the defensive at the start of most discussions. Selectmen routinely text during meetings to others who share their views on a topic to get new information or strategic advice. Those who speak out about these violations of the spirit of open meeting are targeted and humiliated.

Please let me know where I can get background info on who sponsored the bill last session, who opposed it and why.

-----Original Message-----

From: Rose Cavanagh [mailto:[rosecavanagh.nefac@gmail.com](mailto:rosecavanagh.nefac@gmail.com)]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 4:34 PM

To: Robinson, Walter; Susan Hemmeter

Subject: Re: Vermont Open Meeting Law

Dear Susan,

I received your message forwarded below from Walter Robinson. No new

open meeting legislation was passed in Vermont. The bill died and advocates thought it best to try again after the next election.

Best regards,

Rose Cavanagh

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