

**Zachary Brown** <clerktreas@canaan-vt.org>

3/5/2026 11:36 AM

## Re: Open Meeting Law Complaint and Cure Request – Board of Abatement Hearing

To Jonathan <jbenoit9882@gmail.com> Copy Canaan Listers <canaanlisters@gmail.com>

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Jonathan,

Attached is the Board of Abatement's response to your alleged violation of Vermont's open meeting law. This response and your initial notice have been posted to the Town's website: <https://canaan-vt.org/openmeetinglaw.html>, and the locations specified below, all in accordance with applicable state statute.

**Zachary Brown** (he/him) | Town Clerk and Treasurer  
Town of Canaan  
Po Box 159 | Canaan, VT 05903  
802-266-3370 | [clerktreas@canaan-vt.org](mailto:clerktreas@canaan-vt.org)

*Disclosure: This email message, along with any response or reply, is considered a public record and is subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Law 1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320*

On 02/27/2026 5:00 PM EST Zachary Brown <clerktreas@canaan-vt.org> wrote:

Jonathan,

The complaint is being investigate and a decision is being drafted. Once the response is created, a copy will be sent to you and posted on the Town website and at the regular posting locations around town.

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On 02/27/2026 4:56 PM EST Jonathan <jbenoit9882@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Zachary,

Following up on your Feb 24 acknowledgment.

Under 1 V.S.A. § 314, the Board is required to respond publicly to an alleged Open Meeting Law violation within 10 days.

Please let me know when the Board's public response will be issued and where it will be posted/recorded.

Thank you,  
Jonathan Benoit

On Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 9:07 AM Zachary Brown <[clerktreas@canaan-vt.org](mailto:clerktreas@canaan-vt.org)> wrote:

Jonathan,

Received further information to follow.

**Zachary Brown** (he/him) | Town Clerk and Treasurer  
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On 02/23/2026 6:59 PM EST Jonathan <[jbenoit9882@gmail.com](mailto:jbenoit9882@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Zachary,

I am copying the listers for notice only. I am not requesting any reply-all discussion of the merits by email.

This is a written notice to the Board of Abatement of an alleged Open Meeting Law violation and request to cure under 1 V.S.A. § 314.

The alleged violation concerns my Board of Abatement hearing on October 15, 2025 regarding my tax abatement request for Parcel R03017.B.

My concern is that, after I was dismissed/asked to leave, the Board brought in Jean Wilson (assessor/NEMRC) and received assessor-side input outside my presence in a quasi-judicial matter, without any opportunity for me to hear or respond to that input.

I am not challenging the Board's ability to deliberate. I am alleging a process violation based on receiving substantive input after the hearing presentation was closed and after I was no longer present. If the Town's position is that no substantive input was received, please state that clearly in the Board's public response.

Requested cure:

1. A written public response by the Board as required by 1 V.S.A. § 314(b).
2. If the Board determines a violation occurred, a cure at an open meeting as required by statute.
3. A new hearing (or reopened hearing) on my abatement matter in which any assessor input is presented on the record with an opportunity for me to respond.
4. Production (or confirmation of nonexistence) of any minutes, notes, or records reflecting who was present after I was dismissed and what role they served.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,  
Jonathan Benoit