

ARTICLE 46. Public Posting of Open Meeting Law Complaints

To determine whether the Town will vote to urge the Town Manager and Select Board to post Open Meeting Law complaints on the Town's webpage for the committee or board to which the complaint refers when such posting is requested by the complainant, and to leave complaints posted until they are resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, or the complainant reaches the end of the complaint appeal process.

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OML – Open Meeting Law

- OML regulates the activities of Public Bodies
- Town Boards and Committees are “Public Bodies”
- Google “[Open Meeting Law](#)” to find the Attorney General’s [Open Meeting Law Guide](#)

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Attorney General's OML Guide:

Maura Healey's Introduction:

“...One of the most important functions of the Attorney General's Office is to promote openness and transparency in government...”

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Attorney General's OML Guide:

“... any member of the public may file a complaint with a public body alleging a violation of the Open Meeting Law...”

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Attorney General's OML Guide:

“Individuals who allege a violation of the Open Meeting Law must first file a complaint with the public body alleged to have violated the OML.”

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**How does the public know an
OML complaint has been filed?**

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Attorney General's OML Guide:

“The public body has 14 business days from the date of receipt to meet to review the complainant’s allegations.”

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Attorney General's OML Guide:

“Meeting notices must ...list all topics that... will be discussed at the meeting. The list of topics must be sufficiently specific to reasonably inform the public of the issues to be discussed at the meeting. .”

- Two OML complaints filed against the Select Board in 2018 and 2019 are not mentioned on any agenda

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Attorney General's OML Guide:

“Public bodies are required to create and maintain accurate minutes of all meetings... The minutes... must include...a list of all documents and exhibits used at the meeting”

- Two OML complaints filed against the Select Board in 2018 and 2019 are not mentioned in any minutes, nor is any discussion of them mentioned

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When OML Complaints are Hidden:

- Interested members of the public remain unaware that OML complaints exist
- Repeated PRRs (Public Records Requests) are required to determine if OML complaints have been filed against a board or committee

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Why vote for this article?

- Improve OML complaint transparency
- Make OML complaints readily available to the public
- Other towns (e.g. Acton) post OML complaints on their websites

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