

A Response to Recent Postings About the Town Manager Search:

In public agencies and government, access to most meetings are governed by Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) with most meetings open for the public to attend. Proper notice must be posted in a public location in advance to allow the public access to what is being discussed or voted on and the opportunity to attend, if desired. Minutes of these public meetings are taken to document the salient points of the issues being discussed or decided, and to record how each member of a Board or Commission voted on any given issue. In addition, most of the documents maintained by the agency must be available for inspection by the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The Town of Marlborough strives to comply with all aspects of CGS and FOI, but the rules can be complicated, and a legal opinion is sometimes necessary to ensure we are in compliance. To operate outside these rules would be an act of defiance, an effort to act in secrecy. By its very nature, secrecy carries a suggestion of deviousness and lack of frankness or an effort to conceal.

Confidentiality, however, is the principle and practice of keeping sensitive information private. It is meant to protect sensitive situations, personal information, and activities that are deemed as exceptions from public scrutiny by CGS or FOIA. The Town is not required to disclose, and in fact does not disclose things like real estate negotiations, information about minors, certain addresses, personal identifiers, security procedures, certain personnel information and other sensitive, strategic, or personal information. FOIA specifically excludes the meetings of committees formed for the sole purpose of recruiting and hiring executive-level personnel, such as the recent searches for our MES and RHAM Superintendents. The search for our Town Manager will be conducted by a group of nine competent and accomplished individuals from our community selected by the four members of the Board of Selectmen, aided by an Executive Search firm yet to be selected by the Board of Selectmen. From time to time, the public will be updated on the progress.

Any insinuation that the a search for our Town Manager is anything other than a carefully conducted and confidential search by respected members of the community is just bluster that is best ignored. There is no "conspiracy", just an attempt to sow division in the community. Individuals who have questions or concerns are invited to contact me or any member of the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully,

Amy Traversa
Interim Town Manager