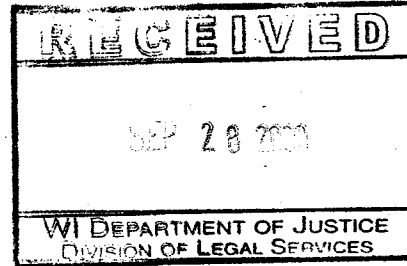


September 22, 2009

From: Gail A. Peckler-Dziki
29920 1102 nd Street
Trevor, WI 53179

To: J. B. Van Hollen
Wisconsin Attorney General
Wisconsin Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857



**RE: Salem town chair Linda Valentine's Making Salem Better (MSB) private website
– should it be open to the public?**

Last January when current town chair Linda Valentine began her campaign, she created a google group website which can be accessed only with her permission and a password. After she won the seat as town chair, she maintained the website.

About two months ago, Annette Newcomb, editor of the Westosha/Paddock Lake Report sent an informal request through email. She has since emptied her sent mail. Annette never received a reply to her request. At that point, she asked me to make a written request, which I have enclosed.

Also enclosed is Chairman Valentine's email denial of access.

I have obtained, from a source who willingly offered information, most of what has been posted on the website, from some of the 140 members and Valentine herself. Also enclosed is a story I wrote about the issue.

While I have the information, I believe it is in the public interest that anyone have access to the website. Even after the story was published on September 5, Mrs. Valentine continued to use the website to discuss town business. She discussed a meeting between municipal heads to explore the representation on the Community Library board.

Enclosures

- 1) My request for access to website
- 2) Linda Valentine's email refusal to my request.
- 3) Westosha Report September 5, 2009 issue with website story
- 4) Copy of a 9/10 Valentine posting to private website regarding Community Library issue. The town is one of the municipal owners of the library
- 5) Copy of a 9/11 Valentine posting to the website
- 6) Copy of a 9/16 Valentine posting to the website. This posting dealt with issues regarding a central High School addition project and a round-about intersection that may be constructed.

I have already spoken to Jennifer Lattis, seeking help in preparing this request for opinion. Ms. Lattis has been very helpful. I have also spoken a lawyer from the Media Hotline of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. He seemed to be of the opinion that since Mrs. Valentine is public official and she is talking about town business on the website, it should be open to the public. Mrs. Valentine, however, seems to believe it's an open meeting question and since there are no other town officials on the website, she is good to go. I would appreciate a definitive opinion from the attorney general office.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I will be looking forward to hearing from you. Please call me at 262-889-4525 or email me at gailpd@earthlink.net if you have any questions. Since I am free-lance, I work at home.

Sincerely,



Gail Peckler-Dziki
Correspondent
The Westosha Report

There is a rumor that a new site has opened up, hosted by Linda Valentine supporter, Carol Dienthal. The new site is <http://www.cutesendit.com/2dcb18F40b2625ccc485c0145157edac/>