

## **IS AN AD HOC GROUP SUBJECT TO THE OPEN MEETING LAW?**

Not necessarily. You must first determine if the group is considered a “public body.” A public body is defined in 1 V.S.A. § 310 (3) and includes state government commissions, boards, and councils; municipal government boards, commissions and councils; and any ad hoc committees or subcommittees of state or municipal government created by charter, motion, or resolution. An informal group that convenes to discuss an issue of town importance with key stakeholders is not a public body and would not be subject to the open meeting law.

This informal group may even include members of a public body, such as a selectboard or a planning commission. Only when a quorum of the members of a public body is present and discusses the business of the body would a meeting be considered public and, hence, subject to the open meeting law.

*Stephanie Smith, Senior Associate, VLCT Municipal Assistance Center*

**VLCT News**, November 2008