

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Julianne Cooke,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0937

President, Pine Grove Niantic
Association; and Pine Grove
Niantic Association,

Respondents

August 26, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 14, 2026, at which time the complainant and respondents appeared, stipulated to certain facts, and presented testimony, exhibits, and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. By complaint dated and filed October 16, 2025, the complainant appealed to this Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to make available for public inspection, the minutes to the September 20, 2025 Meeting of the respondent Association (“September 20 Meeting”).
3. With regard to the complainant’s allegation in paragraph 2, above, §1-225(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part, as follows:

Not later than seven days after the date of the session to which such minutes refer, such minutes shall be available for public inspection...Each public agency shall make, keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings.
4. At the hearing on this matter, the respondents conceded, and therefore it is found, that the minutes of the September 20 Meeting were not made available for public inspection within seven days after September 20, 2025.
5. It is therefore concluded that the respondents violated the requirements of §1-225(a), G.S., as alleged in paragraph 2, above.

6. Notwithstanding, two members of the respondent Association appeared and testified, in part, regarding the respondents' efforts to investigate why the minutes of the September 20 Meeting were not made available for public inspection in the Town Hall within seven days of said Meeting.

7. The respondents' witness, one of the members of the respondent Association described in paragraph 6, above, testified, and it is found, that subsequent to the unavailability of the minutes of the September 20 Meeting, the respondents have not changed current policy nor adopted a new policy regarding the creation, filing and availability of minutes. The respondents' witness testified that the respondent Association believes the procedure they have in place is "working, just that particular month it did not" due to unforeseen circumstances, which include the employee in charge of filing minutes being overloaded with other work around the time of the September 20 Meeting.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint.

1. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the requirements of §1-225(a), G.S.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of August 26, 2026.


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

JULIANNE COOKE, 29 Laurel Street, Niantic, CT 06357

PRESIDENT, PINE GROVE NIAN TIC ASSOCIATION; AND PINE GROVE NIAN TIC ASSOCIATION, PO Box 378, Niantic, CT 06357



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission