

Freedom of Information Commission  
of the State of Connecticut

In the Matter of a Complaint by )  
Theodore Augustanowski, Complainant) Report of Hearing Officer  
against ) Docket #FIC 76-70  
Town of Griswold and Housing ) May 13, 1976  
Authority of the Town of Griswold, )  
Respondents )

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 11, 1976, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondents are public agencies.
2. By letter of complaint addressed to this Commission dated April 21, 1976, the complainant alleged that the respondent housing authority violated P.A. 75-342 in that such housing authority failed to provide notice of its meetings on April 13, 1976 as required by that Act.
3. The respondent housing authority customarily meets at 8:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Ashland Manor complex of such housing authority. April 13th was the second Tuesday in the month of April 1976.
4. Notice of the regularly scheduled meetings of the respondent housing authority was not filed with the Town Clerk pursuant to § 6 of P.A. 75-342 until April 23, 1976.
5. At 7:30 p.m. on April 13, 1976, the respondent housing authority met at the Town Hall with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance of the Town of Griswold. This meeting was for the purpose of discussing a proposed housing development for the elderly. The complainant was present at this meeting although no notice of a special or emergency meeting was posted as required by P.A. 75-342. No minutes of this joint meeting were kept or published.
6. At approximately 9:10 p.m. on April 13, 1976, the aforesaid meeting ended. The respondent housing authority decided at that time to meet again that evening at its usual place in the Ashland Manor complex. No public notice or announcement was given that the respondent housing authority would again meet that evening.

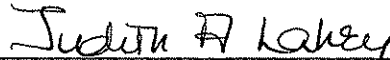
7. Some time after 9:10 p.m. that evening, the respondent housing authority met at the Ashland Manor complex and discussed and voted upon a proposed site for an elderly housing development.

8. The complainant did not learn of this second meeting or of the actions taken thereat until the next day.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned matter:

1. All actions taken at the meeting of the respondent housing authority on April 13, 1976 are hereby declared null and void.

2. Henceforth, the respondent housing authority shall strictly comply with the provisions of P.A. 75-342 concerning the notice and conduct of its meetings.



Commissioner Judith A. Lahey

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission  
on May 26, 1976.

  
Louis J. Tapogna  
Clerk of the Commission