

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2010  
TOWN OF PANTON, VERMONT

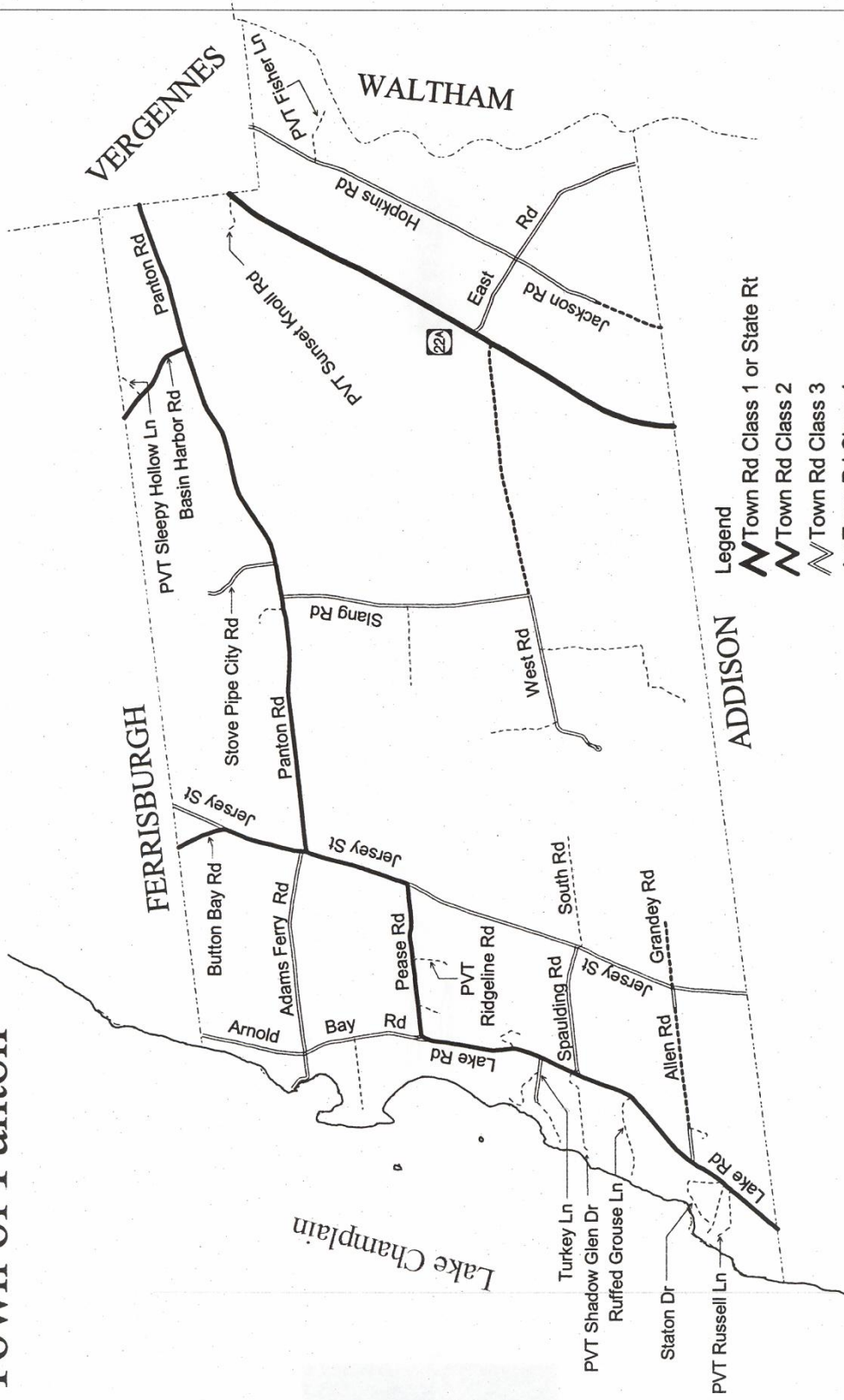


Photo courtesy of Chris Dayton

Panton Town Meeting  
March 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m.  
at the Panton Town Hall  
Voting from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Please bring your Town Report**

# Town of Panton



- Legend**
- Town Rd Class 1 or State Rt
  - Town Rd Class 2
  - Town Rd Class 3
  - Town Rd Class 4
  - Forest Rd/Hwy
  - Legal Trail
  - Private Rd



Annual Report  
Of the Town Officers  
Town of Panton, Vermont  
Year Ending June 30, 2010

Town of Panton  
Charter 1761

Population 2000 Census – 698  
Registered Voters - 462



***Pledge of Allegiance***

I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
the United States of America  
and to the republic for which it stands;  
one nation under God, indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all.

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## **A QUICK GUIDE TO OPEN MEETINGS**

### **MEETINGS OF A PUBLIC BODY MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- Public must be given notice of the meeting.
- Public must be allowed to attend the meeting and be heard.
- Minutes of the meeting must be taken.

### **WHO DOES THE OPEN MEETING LAW APPLY TO?**

This open meeting law applies to all boards, councils and commissions of the state and its political subdivisions (i.e. municipalities), including subcommittees of these bodies. This means the open meeting law governs meetings of selectboards, planning commissions, boards of civil authority, recreation commissions, municipal public library trustees, auditors, listers, etc.

### **WHEN DOES THE OPEN MEETING LAW APPLY?**

Whenever a quorum (a majority) of a public body meets to discuss the business of the board or to take action, the open meeting law will apply. This means that if a majority of a board find themselves together at a social function they must take care not to discuss the business of the board!

### **HOW DOES A BOARD NOTICE ITS MEETINGS?**

- A board schedules regular meetings by adopting a resolution setting the time and place of the meeting. This information must be made available to the public.
- A board holding a special meeting must, at least 24 hours before the meeting, publicly announce the time, place and purpose of the meeting by notifying the board members and the local news media and any other media that has specifically requested notification, and by posting notice of the meeting in or near the clerk's office and in two other public places in the municipality.
- An emergency meeting may be held in the event of a true emergency without public announcement as long as some public notice is given as soon as possible before the meeting.

### **WHAT IS THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD?**

At an open meeting the public must be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on matters considered by the board, subject to reasonable rules set by the chair of the board.

### **WHAT DO MINUTES OF THE BOARD NEED TO INCLUDE?**

Minutes must at least include the names of all members of the public body present at the meeting, and other active participants, and all motions, proposals, and resolutions made, and their dispositions, and the results of any votes taken. Minutes are public records, which must be available for public inspection within five days after the meeting.

### **WHEN CAN A BOARD MEET IN PRIVATE?**

- A board may meet in private to deliberate in connection with a. This is not an open meeting and does not have to be warned.
- A board may only go into executive session upon a majority vote of the board (2/3 vote of a state board), on a motion made in open meeting, that indicates the reason for going into executive session. The only permissible reasons for going into executive session are set out in 1 V.S.A. § 313, and are explained on page 5, herein.

- A board may invite into executive session its attorney, administrative staff and persons who are subjects of the discussion or whose information is needed.
- No decision may be made in executive session. Decisions may be made in deliberative session so long as there is a written decision that is public record.

#### **WHAT RIGHTS DO THE MEDIA HAVE?**

- Upon request, the agendas of regular or special meetings must be made available to the news media prior to a meeting.
- News agencies that wish to be notified of special meetings must provide a written request to the public body.
- Members of the news media and the public have the right to attend meetings and to tape or videotape meetings so long as it is not done in a manner that disrupts the meeting.
- The media and the public have the right to know the reason a board is going into executive session.

*Copies of A Pocket Guide to Open Meetings is available at the Town Clerk's office as well as online at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/statutes2.htm>*

*Still have questions? Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-802-828-2363*

