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Catherine Harder-Bernier
Town Clerk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hanover Town Clerk Catherine Harder-Bernier announced today that a representative from the Division of Open Government of the Office of the Attorney General will soon be leading a training program for town employees and volunteers regarding the Open Meeting Law. The training will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of Hanover Town Hall and all are invited and welcome to attend.

“There were significant changes to the Open Meeting Law over the last few years, and here in Hanover, we also designated our website as an “alternate meeting posting location” effective as of January 1, 2015. It has been a lot for people to keep up with, and some training will certainly be helpful. I am delighted to work with new Attorney General Maura Healey’s office on this effort. Hanover is fortunate to be able to host this regional event,” said Harder-Bernier.

Members of boards and committees with less than five years of experience are particularly encouraged to attend this training, but veteran volunteers and town employees will also benefit from this session also because of the sheer number of changes in the law and its implementation.

According to the Attorney General’s Office, “the purpose of the Open Meeting Law is to ensure transparency in the deliberations on which public policy is based. Because the democratic process depends on the public having knowledge about the considerations underlying governmental action, the Open Meeting Law requires, with some exceptions, that meetings of public bodies be open to the public. It also seeks to balance the public's interest in witnessing the deliberations of public officials with the government's need to manage its operations efficiently.”

While the training is open to the public, those planning to attend are kindly requested to register so that adequate space and handouts can be made available. Registration may be completed by contacting JoAnne O’Connor, Assistant Town Clerk at joanne.oconnor@hanover-ma.gov or (781) 826-5000, x1079.
