

Media correspondence — Sasha Goldstein, Seven Days

August 19 to 21, 2026. Media inquiry MI-004. Six messages. The Town has answered every question asked. Complete as of August 21, 2026.

1. Received — Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 4:40 PM

From: Sasha Goldstein, Deputy News Editor <sasha@sevendaysvt.com>

To: Ian Albinson

Hi Ian,

I'm writing a short story for next week's paper about the recent letter to the selectboard about the Lord Prayer's rock. Might you have some time to discuss? My cell is 301-642-1417.

Essentially, I'm just curious as to whether the selectboard is actually considering this request — or if it is merely a letter to the SB. And I'd like to hear from you about the town response. It seems like people are pretty worked up over this!

Let me know what works, thanks.

2. Sent — Thursday, August 20, 2026, 7:25 AM

From: Ian Albinson <ialbinson.sb.bristolvt@gmail.com>

To: sasha@sevendaysvt.com, cc Town Administrator

Hi Sasha,

Thanks for reaching out. I would rather handle this by email than by phone, if that works for you. Some of what is being raised here is legal in nature and I would like to be precise rather than approximate. Send me whatever questions you have and I will turn them around quickly.

Here is where things stand.

In July a resident raised concerns at a Selectboard meeting about how close the rock sits to the traveled road. In early August the Town received a letter from another resident raising several objections and asking that the rock be removed. That letter was included in the Selectboard's August 10 packet as correspondence received.

The Selectboard has taken no action on either matter. There is no proposal before the Selectboard to alter, move, or remove Lord's Prayer Rock, and nothing on the subject is scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

The Town has received a number of other letters and emails since then. All of it is public record, and I am attaching the complete file so you are not working from a partial set. Where I have replied to a correspondent, my reply is in the same document.

One note on the files. The Hewitt letter is a scan that is cut off at the right margin. I have asked for a clean copy.

Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials are at <https://bristolvt.org/2026-meetings/>.

Regards,

Ian

Five attachments produced: Santoriello, Aube thread, D'Avignon thread, Major thread, Hewitt. All seven logged correspondence items.

3. Received — Thursday, August 20, 2026, 4:43 PM

From: Sasha Goldstein, Deputy News Editor <sasha@sevendaysvt.com>

To: Ian Albinson

Thanks, Ian. Has a lawsuit actually been filed? Or one threatened? I didn't get that sense from the letter, but perhaps there's some other correspondence? Or is it simply the potential threat of some legal action that's a concern?

Will let you know of any specific questions. I'm writing a pretty short story so this information is helpful and may be all I need!

Thanks again,

Sasha

4. Sent — Thursday, August 20, 2026, 5:45 PM

From: Ian Albinson <ialbinson.sb.bristolvt@gmail.com>

To: sasha@sevendaysvt.com, cc Town Administrator

Hi Sasha,

To clarify, no lawsuit has been filed regarding this matter.

Regards,
Ian

5. Received — Friday, August 21, 2026, 9:46 AM

From: Sasha Goldstein, Deputy News Editor <sasha@sevendaysvt.com>

To: Ian Albinson

As far as you (or the police department) knows, have there been any major crashes or injuries in the area by the rock? I know the letter mentions the hazard it could pose to traffic. Wasn't sure if anyone has tracked this kind of data, at least in recent memory.

Thanks again!

Sasha

6. Sent — Friday, August 21, 2026, 12:24 PM

From: Ian Albinson <ialbinson.sb.bristolvt@gmail.com>

To: sasha@sevendaysvt.com, cc Town Administrator

Hi Sasha,

Three things, and I would rather give you all of them than just the convenient one.

Police Chief Bruce Nason reviewed department records back to 2017, when he arrived, and reports no accident reports at the rock. There have been accidents on other sections of VT 116.

The 2011 Bristol to Rockydale bike and pedestrian study, prepared by RSG for the Town, noted accidents on the segment between the rock and Drake Smith Road. It did not break out incidents at the rock itself.

One of the letters I sent you recounts a fatal crash near the site in December 1976, which the writer attributes to speed and black ice rather than the rock. That is a resident's recollection, not a Town record, and I have not verified it. I would ask you to be thoughtful about the family if you use it.

If you want to go further on the crash history, Chief Nason is the right person and I am glad to put you in touch. I would rather you have it from him than from me relaying it. Email: Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov

Regards,
Ian

Transcript prepared August 21, 2026 from the Selectboard Chair's email. Messages reproduced verbatim. Signature blocks and quoted reply text repeated in the original have been collapsed for readability; no message has been omitted. Prepared for the August 24, 2026 Selectboard packet.