



Bristol Select Board
1 South St.
PO Box 249
Bristol, VT 05443

Dear members of the Select Board,

July 28, 2026

This letter concerns the Lord's Prayer Rock:

There are at least four problems with the Lord's Prayer Rock:

- (1) It is a menace to traffic, making it dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists due to its location starting right at the edge of the road pavement. Children behind the obstructing rock could run into the street without much warning to motorists. It leaves bicyclists and pedestrians no safe space to the side if someone passes too closely, and pedestrians are forced to walk in the travel lane. Especially in the winter, it is a hazard to motorists.
- (2) It is an illegal billboard under Vermont law.
- (3) It is illegal in the Vermont and U.S. Constitutions, due to separation of church and government. Thus it is illegal for the Town of Bristol to own and maintain this religious advertisement. It is totally different from owning a repurposed church building, for instance.
- (4) The stone was made into a monument without a building permit, and possibly without any Town approval, and does not conform to building code.

Considering these four issues together, the only solution seems to be to break up the rock, and move the debris away. A sign could be put up describing the rock and inscription, but without photo or text of the inscription. Appealing to history, or sentiment does not solve the serious issues listed. If the Town does not act, it is open to litigation, which it probably would not succeed in. I am a member of a Christian church, and solving these issues is not against religion.

Sincerely,
Santo Santoriello
1477 Burpee Rd, Bristol

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Santo".