‘Real Democracy’

By Sally Pollak

Frank Bryan, a former state senator, was born in New Hampshire, a statistical blip in a life devoted to gathering information and analyzing Vermont statistics.

Not just any statistics, but Vermont statistics at their most Vermontian. Bryan is a town meeting aficionado. He has attended dozens and dozens of town meetings and has written about them in his book, "Real Democracy," which tracks trends in town meetings over the years.

The book provides a historical overview of town meeting practices in Vermont, as well as a critical analysis of the role of town meetings in modern Vermont.

"Bryan's book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding the history and significance of town meetings in Vermont," wrote the Vermont Independent. "It is a must-read for anyone interested in Vermont's political history."