

On Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 4:12 PM Tom Dignazio <[tom.dignazio@gmail.com](mailto:tom.dignazio@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Tom,

I am writing in regard to some discussion that took place at the end of the last Select Board meeting. This is in regards to Mr. Foster's desire to open another Charter Commission with the intention of changing our form of town government away from Town Meeting. I'd like to advise that this would be perceived very poorly by much of the town. It would validate some of the concerns I heard in the buildup to the last town meeting that if votes don't go the desired way of the SB, they try again at poorly attended meetings or change the rules. It would surely be seen an attempt to consolidate control and decrease visibility in the decision making process.

Furthermore, I think the belief that was expressed that article 14 failed mainly because a powerpoint presentation couldn't be given is naive. I supported article 14 and helped craft Maury's endorsement and rationale for it. I do not feel that additional charts and graphs would have added enough to the debate to move many (any?) votes. As a non-voting attendee at the recent Tax Ceiling task force I cautioned that there was not enough support for the idea and it was by no means guaranteed to pass.

Finally, I'd like to express my support for Town Meeting government for Longmeadow. I still believe we are of a size where the benefits of Town Meeting outweigh its limitations. For one, Town Meeting is the primary reason I began volunteering in various capacities with the town. Also, I am originally from NJ where corruption, kickbacks, toadyism, and self-dealing are ingrained in the DNA of local politics. Town Meeting may be inefficient but it is incorruptible.

Before engaging another commission to spend years re-examining this, I urge to get a sense of the sentiments from the town at large. You will find many people who will confront any effort to move away from Town Meeting with suspicion, cynicism, and anger.

Thank you!

Your neighbor,

Tom Dignazio  
24 Crescent Road  
Finance Committee  
Formerly Capital Planning, Town Meeting Counter, and rec league coach.