
October 14 meeting

1 message

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To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Rather than complain on Facebook, I will tell you directly why I found last night's meeting so offensive.

First, you seem not to realize that the Selectboard is an *executive* body. Town Meeting is the legislature. If a bylaw is passed, and approved by the Attorney General, it is the law. Like it or not, it is your job to obey and enforce it. Ask yourself Mr. Romano's first question.

Second, the objections raised by Mr. Brady, Ms. Acksen, and others were entirely foreseeable. Did you ask Town Counsel how the new bylaws were to be applied in these and other complex cases? You might have spared us all at least an hour of unnecessary wrangling.

Third, you made rules. And then you ignored them. You told us all we had to fill out a questionnaire and show up. But many who did not do those things were reappointed simply because you knew them, or someone you knew spoke up for them. That rather defeats the purpose of the exercise. You again failed Mr. Romano's test: you did what suited your personal preference rather than follow the rules.

Fourth, although the town desperately needs people to serve on committees (including those that you apparently deem inconsequential), last night's exhibition will deter many potential applicants because the board continues to show deference to those whom it knows and likes, even when they can't be bothered to show up, rather than to give equal consideration to people they've never seen before but have admirable qualifications. Hardly a way to bring new talent into the town's operation.

Beth Luey