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To:

- Charter Commission

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Greetings,

Below is my comment for tonight's Charter Commission meeting. Please include it in your collection of public comments and reply to my concerns.

Anatol Zukerman

Good evening,

Most members of this Commission are proud of the current Plymouth form of government because it's supposed to be "the original American democracy", but in reality this democracy is a dictatorship in disguise. The latest proof of this fact was the Select Board's decision to fire Town Manager Melissa Arrighi and hire Planning Director Lee Hartmann as an acting Town Manager. This decision was made at a clandestine meeting of the Board without consulting Plymouth community and other parts of the town's administration.

This event outraged even the least politically active citizens of Plymouth, but was not on the agenda of this Commission. From my own experience I can attest that Select Board is unresponsive to the communications from the community and appointed committees. Many times committee chairs and municipal employees either shouted me down or ignored me because they didn't like my dissenting opinions. Reportedly, this mode of operation was practiced in the past.

Such dictatorial tendencies are unacceptable in any democratic society, let alone the original democracy of Plymouth. Therefore, I respectfully suggest to include this issue in the next agenda of the Commission in order to install democratic principles in the next Plymouth Charter, regardless of the form of government that people may select. In order to achieve this goal I would be glad to discuss with you my specific proposals.

Anatol Zukerman  
1 Shinglewood, Plymouth, MA