

With this invitation to citizens to revise and clarify the charter, the court made it clear that people have the right, under the town meeting / selectmen form of government, to participate in the process of removing a town manager but that the existing charter is not clear enough.

Third, in an attempt to divert attention away from the actions of four selectmen, the mayor continues to blame the rest of us for the expense of legal battles and refuses to accept responsibility for his actions. Watch the use of this tactic increase as citizens continue to challenge abuses of authority and betrayal of public trust.

Finally, the displeasure displayed by the mayor's outburst reflects a tired notion that governmental wrongs must be accepted and everyone should "move on" and forget. The disquiet of the citizenry, however, isn't something to be ignored or forgotten. It is symptomatic of the problems faced in our democracy today, particularly representative democracy.

Even as we move forward together to conduct the business of the town, the citizens will not forget the deceit and the disregard for citizen input displayed by the four selectmen. We must not.

Charlene LaVoie, Community lawyer
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