

Letter to the Selectboard April 8, 2015

Good Evening. I have some points to make to you tonight which are borne of conscience, duty and experience.

I wish to preface them with my hopes that they will be received by you good folks and used constructively, and that they come to you solely out of love for this town, love for functional democracy and are in no way an attack on any individual. I wish you all well: I know what it is like to sit at your table and try to do the right thing.

You've got the pot boiling away on the stove, boiling furiously and you're trying to keep the lid on. Meanwhile the kitchen you are standing in looks like it's about to go over the dam.

I do not think this major building project, or even a minor one for that matter, can come off successfully unless you summon the question to ask yourselves why this is so slow, so hard, so rancorous, so very unproductive. The lack of cooperative productivity has been going on around here for a long time. I remember it well when I served on your board.

There is a lack of communication, a lack of trust. I can see that. There is also a lack of checks and balances, a lack of accountability. All this water under the bridge and still obstruction dominates. Confusion, Disagreement.

I am not forwarding a position on this proposed building project. What I am saying is that as board you must put your attention ~~on~~ to determining what the chronic failure is here. If it turns out to be related to selectboard / Town Manager dynamic, handle it. If you find out that the Town Manager form of government is the problem, address it. Handle it.

If we're out baling hay and the plunger's out of time and the baler's going to crash, we would stop and fix it. No accusations, no obfuscations will get the hay baled. Face up to the problem with broad shoulders and do what you must do.

From my perspective your board has had inadequate opportunity to discuss the business at hand without citizens scolding, pushing, demanding. You cannot do good under this constant duress.

I am doing none of these things.

What I am doing, is to point to ~~your~~ the existence of a completely functional process, your reference, and to implore you to use it, and to have faith in it.

An enormous amount of courage and intelligence and human sacrifice created ~~a~~ <sup>this</sup> process which ~~form~~ in former times served to deliver us to an equitable result. What happens here is just the opposite. We hone in on a desired result and attempt to patch together a process. It does not work.

Let your legacy be a renewal of fair and correct process to ensure the continuance of a functional and civil community. The Taj Mahal ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> pale by comparison.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Lupien