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Let Amherst residents have a say on downsizing board

A specter is haunting the halls of Amherst town government — the specter of the beginning of the bare roots of a dictatorship in the form of the gang of four that three times denied the people of Amherst the right to decide how they should be governed locally. Recently in Amherst the Democrat-controlled Town Board, along party lines, defeated a resolution to allow a referendum to appear on the ballot calling for the reduction of the number of board members, who serve at large, from seven to five.

As humiliating as it is to have four of your elected officials take the view that only they have the ability to decide how best the people of Amherst should be governed, add to it the patronizing tone of Supervisor Satish Mohan, who summarily dismissed the notion of determining the type of self-government its citizenry may want as “a most hyped topic . . . the most deceitful resolution I’ve seen.”

We will all be better served if we ponder the following words of Plato, and act upon them if we want better government: “One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that we end up being governed by our inferiors.”

Edward F. McKee

East Amherst

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