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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Newfane
—Article Number:.....42586

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Town Meeting: an extremely rare direct democracy

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

Town Meeting, a state holiday usually held on the first Tuesday in March, is a rare form of direct democracy where residents assemble and become a legislative body.

This form of direct democracy has become an extremely rare endangered species, one where citizens can raise their voices directly without going through elected representatives. It only still exists in parts of Switzerland, Germany...and in Vermont.

12 Here in Newfane, it takes 85 signatures (or 5% of the
13 town's registered voters) to add an article to the Town Meeting
14 agenda, thus eliminating frivolous, parochial, and irrelevant
15 topics.
16 Any additional limitation on what can and cannot be
17 discussed at Town Meeting should be vehemently opposed — if
18 not for our own sake, then for the sake of future generations.
19 It's never a good idea to take power away from citizens.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

20

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

21

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

22

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

23

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

24

###END LOGLINE###