

Living in a Directly Democratic Community

Presentation by Dan Chodorkoff, Marshfield

Abstract:

I will describe life in Marshfield, Vermont, a town that governs itself through structures which rely on a form of direct democracy that is an expression of a long standing model, the New England Town Meeting, which influenced Murray Bookchin's formulation of Communalism. I will briefly present the history of town meeting government, describe the structure and function of that system based on my personal participation, analyze its strengths, its weaknesses, and its potential for wider application.

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