

# TOWN OF MAYNARD MODERATOR

## DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE



To All Maynard Voters:

In consultation with the Select Board and the Board of Health and recent research showing substantial contagion risk of indoor meetings, I have determined that a public safety emergency requires an outdoor meeting venue. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, §10A, I declare on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, that the Maynard Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm on May 16, 2022 at the Fowler School recessed and continued. The continued Annual Town Meeting shall be at 9:00 am on June 11, 2022 at the rear parking lot behind the Fowler School located at 3 Tiger Drive, Maynard.

The nature of the emergency is the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID19”). In making this Declaration, I reference that the Maynard Board of Health and the Moderator met on May 11, 2022 and the BOH recommended that moving the meeting to an outdoor venue would substantially reduce the risk of spreading. Recent statistics shows that Middlesex County is experiencing greater than 1000 new cases per day. An additional consideration was the turnout for Maynard town meetings regularly exceeds 190 voters and the health risk to voters in attending an indoor meeting would be substantial. In addition to consulting with the Select Board and Board of Health, I have reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Given the continued rapid spread of the disease and the risk to vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings, I conclude that delaying and relocating the Annual Town Meeting is in the best interest of the Town and its citizens.

M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A mandates that the Moderator “shall announce the declaration of recess and continuance as far in advance of the Town Meeting being continued as possible.” It also requires that a Town Meeting recessed pursuant to this statute “shall be convened by the moderator not later than 30 days following the date and time of the moderator’s declaration of recess and continuance.” Thus, under the statute, I do not have the authority to continue the Annual Town Meeting for longer than 30 days from the date of recess, but I do have the authority to issue further continuances. I therefore declare that the continued date of the Annual Town Meeting shall be June 11, 2022, to convene at 9:00 a.m. at the Fowler School rear parking lot located off Tiger Drive. If it is unlikely that the COVID-19 emergency will have abated by June 11<sup>th</sup>, I would declare additional continuances of up to 19 days as necessary to defer the meeting until it can be held safely. In considering further deferrals, I shall continue to consult with the Select Board and the Board of Health.

Given at Maynard at  
12:00 p.m. this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

Dick Downey  
Town Moderator  
Town of Maynard