



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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PLYMOUTH TOWN MODERATOR

FIFTH DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS

This Fifth Declaration of Recess and Continuance of the Plymouth Annual and Special Town Meetings is issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A. By prior Declaration I had recessed and continued the April 4, 2020 Annual and Special Town Meetings until July 13, 2020. However, based upon the continuing public health and safety emergency in the Commonwealth and this community, I hereby provide notice to the Town of Plymouth that I have determined it is in the public's interest, due to the ongoing public health and safety risks posed by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), to further recess and continue the Annual and Special Town Meetings until **Monday, August 10, 2020** at 6:00 PM at Plymouth North High School. Please note further that I have requested of the Select Board that the Special and Annual Town Meetings be held through a remote platform rather than in person pursuant to recently enacted legislation in order to best safeguard public health and safety.

Based upon the orders and guidance issued by the Governor and the Commonwealth Department of Public Health, among others, restricting large gatherings and various public functions, the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with public safety officials, the Board of Health, and members of the Board of Selectmen and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A significant consideration in this decision includes the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, and my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly vulnerable members of our community. I am aware of the recently begun phased reopening of the Commonwealth, and recognize that all such efforts are tentative in nature as they are subject to change depending on the data regarding the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Massachusetts, and the Governor's orders regarding the State of Emergency.

Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, therefore, I have determined in accordance with G.L. c.39, §10A that the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19 to public health and safety will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the recessed and continued Annual and Special Town Meetings and will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meetings. A delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Town Meetings and managing their safety and health in a manner most appropriate for them.

To provide as much advance notice as possible, and in order to allow the Town the greatest period of time to evaluate the situation, this formal Declaration will be deemed to be issued and take effect on July 13, 2020, the scheduled date of the recessed and continued Annual and Special Town Meetings.

Please contact the Town Moderator's office with any further questions at (508) 746-1464 or fax at (508) 746-9205 or e-mail at FST@plymouthlaw.com.

F. Steven Triffletti
Town Moderator

June 11, 2020 at 2:40p.m.