



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MODERATOR

DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE OF THE MAY 20, 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This Declaration is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c.39, §10A.

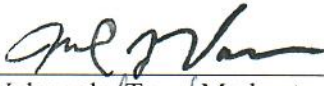
Based upon the continuing public health and safety emergency currently affecting the Commonwealth and this community, I hereby provide notice to the Town of Wales that I have determined it to be in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, and pursuant to the recommendation of the Select Board as voted at their meeting of May 11, 2020, to recess and continue the May 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting until Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Tantasqua Regional High School Auditorium, 319 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, MA.

I issue this Declaration after careful and considerable deliberations about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time. Based upon orders and recommendations issued by the Governor, among others, restricting large gatherings and various public functions and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with public safety officials, the Board of Health, and members of the Select Board 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 to do so safely.

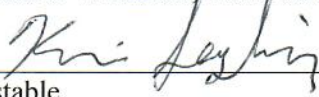
Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all voters of the Town, therefore, I have determined in accordance with G.L. c.39, §10A that the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19 to public health and safety will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting and will therefore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

To provide as much advance notice as possible, and in order to allow the Town the maximum period of time to evaluate the situation, this formal Declaration will be deemed to be issued and take effect on May 20, 2020, the originally scheduled date of the Annual Town Meeting.

Please contact the Office of the Select Board with any further questions at (413) 245-7571 or by email at select@townofwales.net.


Michael J. Valanzola, Town Moderator

May 18, 2020 at 11:00 am


Constable

May 18, 2020