

***DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE
OF
JUNE 15, 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, as amended by Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020. I hereby provide notice to the Town of Essex that I have determined that it is in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, to recess and reschedule the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting for June 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., so that said meeting can be held to be outdoors at Essex Elementary School Grounds.

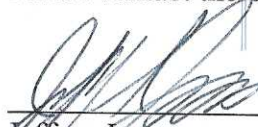
I have issued this Declaration after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time. Various professional sports leagues, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and events, and more, have been cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended normal operations. Similarly, various public and private entities have significantly restricted operations in response to the continued spread of the virus. Based upon the recommendations from the Governor, among others, that large indoor gatherings be avoided, 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 Board of Selectmen and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In consideration of such consultation and guidance, I have determined that the indoor location for the originally posted meeting cannot safely accommodate a sufficient number of people and still provide for adequate physical distancing. Another 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.

Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, therefore, I have determined in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A that the rapidly evolving situation involving COVID-19 will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting if it is held indoors and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. The decision to change the date and location at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Town Meeting and managing their 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, this Declaration will be deemed to be issued and take effect on this date.

Please contact the Town Administrator's office with any further questions at (78) 768-6531.



Jeffrey Jones
Town Moderator

May 20, 2020 at 8:30a.m.