

NOTICE PER G.L. C. 39, §10A

TO: Blythe Robinson, Norfolk Select Board, Carol Greene
FROM: Jason Talerman, Town Moderator
CC: Peter Mello, Town Counsel, Board of Health
RE: Postponement of Town Meeting
DATE: June 23, 2020

This Notice will confirm my declaration of yesterday (at approximately 1:00 p.m.) that the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, originally scheduled for June 24, 2020 at the King Philip High School is being postponed to Saturday June 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the King Philip High School football field. This declaration is to address concerns raised by the novel coronavirus – in particular concerns raised regarding holding the Meeting indoors. My declaration was made after consultation with the Chair of the Norfolk Select Board, the Chair of the Norfolk Board of Health and the Norfolk Town Administrator. My declaration is also based upon guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, such guidance specifically recommending outdoor Town Meetings where feasible.

While discussion of an outdoor Town Meeting has been ongoing for several weeks, there was an expectation that, with a relatively modest warrant, a meeting in the High School cafeteria could be conducted in a safe and appropriately socially distanced manner. However, as Town Meeting approached, it became increasingly clear that there was a heightened issue in Town Meeting attendance due to the public's interest in several warrant articles, including the omnibus budget article. Furthermore, both the Norfolk Select Board as well as Norfolk Public Schools expressed an interest in completing Town Meeting before the close of the fiscal year. Accordingly, although I have the authority to postpone the Town Meeting beyond July 1st, I deferred to the interests of Town and School administration and scheduled the meeting for this Saturday. By doing so, we also retain a possible "rain date" of June 30th.

Both I and Select Board Chair Kevin Kalkut fully understand that moving the meeting on such short notice will be a significant inconvenience for some. However, it was the most viable option to conduct the Town's business while mitigating risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

Sincerely,



Jason Talerman
Norfolk Town Moderator