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**TOWN of NORTH READING**  
*Massachusetts*

**Moderator**

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**John J. Murphy**

***NORTH READING TOWN MODERATOR  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECLARE RECESS AND CONTINUANCE  
OF  
OCTOBER 5, 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING***

This Notice of Intent to Declare Recess and Continue the North Reading October Annual Town Meeting is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A. I hereby provide notice to the Town of North Reading 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, including the immediate threat to the health and safety of persons and property, to consider the recess and continuance of the October 5, 2020 Annual Town Meeting. For public health and safety reasons, I am also hereby providing notice of recess and continuance to October 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM at 189 Park Street (Middle/High School property) likely on Arthur Kenney Turf Field.

I issue this Notice of Intent after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to the most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings, and in the interest of providing necessary advance notice to all individuals participating in the Town Meeting process of this possible recess and continuance. 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 orders and/or recommendations from the Governor, among others, that large gatherings be avoided, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with public safety officials, the Director of Public Safety, the Director of Public Health, 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, my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly, vulnerable members of our community, and the needs of all participants to be aware of these evolving circumstances.

2020 SEP 11 AM 9:11

Town of North Reading, MA  
Moderator's Declaration

TOWN CLERK  
NORTH READING, MA

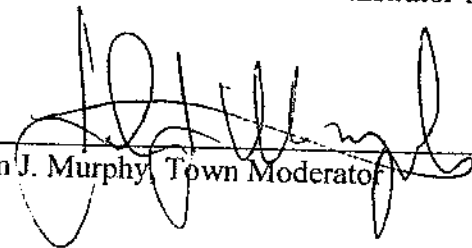
October 5, 2020 Annual Town Meeting  
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Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, and acknowledging the authority vested in the Town Moderator pursuant to G.L. c.39, §10A, I have determined in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A that the rapidly evolving situation involving Covid-19, including the immediate threat to the health and safety of persons and property, will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the October 5, 2020 Annual Town Meeting and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A continuance at this time will help 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, which is being issued in accordance with Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 "An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19," will be deemed to be issued and take effect on September 10, 2020 and the October Annual Town Meeting will be rescheduled for October 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM to be held at 189 Park Street (Middle/High School property) likely on Arthur Kenney Turf Field. Consistent with the purposes of the Special Act and the existing and continuing health emergencies, the Town is deeming the term "recess and continue" to include being able to move the Town Meeting two (2) days earlier to a Saturday to ensure that the safest venue can be utilized at the most reasonable and prudent date and time. This continuance will provide the Town with the ability to utilize an outdoor venue during a date and time when the school grounds are not otherwise being occupied.

Additionally, through this Declaration, all notice and mailing requirements set forth in Section 2-4-3 and Section 2-4-4 of the Town Charter will be continued and modified to be applicable to the new date of the October Annual Town Meeting. It should be further noted that the Town will be providing ample notice to all of the citizens of the new date of Town Meeting through several means in excess of the fourteen (14) days required by the Town Charter.

Please contact the Town Administrator's office with any further questions at (978) 664-6010.

  
John J. Murphy, Town Moderator

September 10, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.