

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield community:

After a long and challenging year, spring has blossomed in Medfield. Consequently, it is once again my great honor and pleasure to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting to be held outside on **Monday evening, May 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM on the Calvin Fisher Field at Medfield High School.**

Nearly a year ago, on June 27, 2020, we gathered for a Town Meeting unlike any other. The meeting was held outside on a Saturday morning with a 'limited purpose' agenda restricted to the essential financial and operational business of the town. We also had our quorum requirement reduced by state statute. As we adjourned the meeting, I expressed my hope that in 2021 we would be back in the high school gymnasium on the first Monday in May carrying on our town legislative function in the traditional manner.

Unfortunately, many of the unprecedented challenges of 2020 remain a part of our daily lives as we prepare for our upcoming 2021 Annual Town Meeting. The conditions require that we gather outside once again on the high school 'turf' field. However, this year we have a full and robust agenda of articles addressing a broad range of important Town matters including operating and capital budgets, planning and zoning, water treatment, citizens' petitions, energy and solar, and town administrative business. Additionally, our quorum requirement returns to the customary 250 registered voters.

I strongly encourage all voters to come to our Annual Town Meeting. Medfield has an exceptionally proud tradition of participatory self-government. We are the legislative branch of our government. Our collective determination sets the course for Medfield's future. Our votes and resolutions on May 17 become our budgets, laws, and regulations. Please join us. We live in a great community. We have repeatedly demonstrated our commitment to high quality education, excellent municipal services, unparalleled open space, safe streets and homes, the well-being of the young and the old, neighborhood engagement, recreational opportunity, and vibrant local commerce. Continuing to advance and balance these shared values requires the steadfast continuation of our commitment.

As for procedures, the laws of the Commonwealth provide: "The Moderator shall preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order, and make public declaration of all votes." At the beginning of our meeting on the 17th, I will describe the guidelines for our dialogue and deliberations. My guidance will come from the traditional blend of fairness, prudence, expedience, respectful communication, and consideration of the best interests of the community.

Please carefully review the *Report of the Warrant* and bring it with you to the meeting. The *Report* provides an excellent overview of Town finances and the full text of articles under consideration. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, May 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator